

**AN AIDS
TO
THE STUDY
OF**

Dickens :—A Tale of Two Cities

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with

GENERAL NOTES

BY

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AGRA.

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novelist who dug down into the people for his subjects, apprehended all their character, and humour and pain in reproduced with as ever had a more marvellous. Again, no Dickens. He can give the interior of a fact, or room, the general air of a street, as no had given these things before him.

The two most prominent qualities of Dickens' art are his humour and his pathos. And in no author is the close kinship between humour and pathos so obvious as in Dickens. He passes from laughter to tears, he combines the ludicrous with the pathetic with an unparalleled facility (e. g. the Cruncher family.)

Dickens is not without his faults. His range of character, though extensive, is limited. He did not draw, with any success, persons beyond the lower and lower middle classes. Dickens had also many irritating mannerisms, a lack of anything like real acquaintance with great and high regions of thought, and an unfortunate proneness to talk about what he did not understand.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

III. THE STORY.

A French doctor, Manette of Beauvais, was taken by the Marquis of Evremonde and his brother to their palace to attend a peasant girl and a boy almost on the point of death. The boy told the doctor how the brother of the Marquis had forcibly brought the girl to the palace for satisfying his

wicked love and how he had been wounded attempt to save his sister. The Marquis that the doctor would divulge the secret sent to the Bastille where he was kept in confinement for 18 years. Two years after the imprisonment the doctor, his wife, who was an English lady, died and his daughter Lucie was brought to London by Jarvis Lorry, agent of Tellson's bank which had the charge of Dr. Manette's property. She lived on her father's property believing him to be dead. In 1775 Dr. Manette was set free and was brought to England by Jarvis Lorry joined by Lucie at Dover where she learnt for the first time that her father had been alive. The daughter nursed him very carefully and he gradually recovered from the dreadful effects of long imprisonment.

Lucie was a charming girl and became the object of love with Charles Darnay, the nephew and heir of Marquis of Evermonde and Sydney Carton, an English barrister, who resembled Charles Darnay in appearance. The Marquis had been murdered by Gaspard in revenge for the death of his child who had been run over by his carriage at Paris and Charles Darnay had inherited his estates. Charles was a man of a different character and being disgusted with the ways of the French nobles had given up all his titles and was living in London as a teacher of French. Charles succeeded in marrying Lucie, and Sydney, though he could not win her hand, resolved to remain in her service.

was suspended from office, peasants rose
against their tax-collectors, many palaces of nobles
were burnt and everywhere there was disorder and
anarchy. The tax-collector of Evremonde family,
Gabelle, was sent to prison. He sent an urgent
letter to Charles Darnay imploring him to come to
Paris and save him, for he had suffered because he
had been the faithful servant of his family. Darnay
knew how dangerous it was to go to France but as
it was his duty to help a faithful servant, he depar-
ted immediately without informing any one
(Aug., 1792.) When Darnay reached Paris, he was
at once arrested and sent to prison without trial.
When the news of Darnay's arrest came to Dr.
Manette, he departed immediately for France with
Lucie and was soon followed by Sydney Carton ready
to do anything for Lucie and those dear to her.
Dr. Manette was popular with the Paris mob for he
had once been a prisoner at the Bastille. His influ-
ence secured release for Darnay; but he was soon
after arrested again and sentenced to death on the
evidence of Defarge and his wife and a paper which
Dr. Manette had left in the chimney-hole of the
Bastille and in which he had denounced the whole
family of Evremonde to which Darnay unluckily
belonged. It was the time for Sydney Carton to
prove his vow. He managed to enter the cell where
Darnay had been kept on the pretext of visiting him
and with the help of a drug made him unconscious.
Then Carton dressed him in his own dress, while he
put on the dress of Darnay and with the assistance
of Barsad, a spy on the prisoners of the Republic
had the unconscious visitor (really Darnay) carried
away. Soon after Darnay was taken away in

each out of France by Lucie and Dr. ...
whom Jarvis Lorry had already procured pass-port;
while Carton was taken to the place of execution as
Darnay (December, 1793).

The following extract is taken from Marzials's
Life of Dickens :—

"The Tale of Two Cities" is a tale of the great French Revolution of 1793, and the two cities in question are London and Paris,—London as it lay comparatively at peace in the days when George III. was king, and Paris running blood and writhing in the fierce fire of anarchy and mob rule. And the story, what does it tell? It tells of a certain Dr. Manette, who, after long years of imprisonment in the Bastille, is restored to his daughter in London; and of a young French noble, who has assumed the name of Darnay, and left France in horror of the doings of his order, and who marries Dr. Manette's daughter; and of a young English barrister [Sydney Carton], able enough in his profession, but careless of personal success, and much addicted to port wine, and bearing a striking personal resemblance to the young French noble. These persons, and others, being drawn to Paris by various strong inducements, Darnay is condemned to death as a *ci-devant* noble, and the ne'er-do-weel barrister, out of the great pure love he bears to Darnay's wife, succeeds in dying for him. That is the tale's bare outline.

IV. *The Title*.—The story is connected with two cities, namely Paris and London, and the novel has, therefore, been named '*A Tale of Two Cities*'.

V. *The purpose.*—The purpose of Dickens is to show by means of a story the condition of France before and after the French Revolution. He has given a very graphic account of the inhuman cruelty with which the nobles treated the common people prior to the Revolution and the Reign of Terror. Dickens has however, exaggerated the cruel treatment of the people by the nobles and his description, so far as this part of it goes applies more to the days of Louis XIV and XV than to those of Louis XVI. The persons of the story are imaginary except Foulon, but the places mentioned are all real places in France.

VI CHARACTERS.

1. Lucie Manette.

She is the loving, golden-haired, blue-eyed daughter of Dr. Manette and wife of Charles Darnay. She is a good example of Dickens' ideal of womanhood, the emotional, and clinging type that needs an object for her affections and a stronger nature to depend upon: gentle, good-tempered, patient, industrious, pious, with all the domestic virtues in short. The most prominent feature in her character is her love for her father. It is Lucie's loving service that has effected all that it can towards the Doctor's recovery from the dreadful effects of long imprisonment.

2. Charles Darnay.

Charles Darnay, whose real name is Charles St. Evremonde, is the hero of the novel. The two prominent features in his character are sentiment-

talism and idealism. (1) He is easily liable to be swayed by feelings. Though fully aware of the disturbed condition of France, he goes there in response to Gabelle's call for the only reason that he has been a faithful servant of the Evremonde family. He has renounced his title to the, Evremonde estate and it is no longer his duty to protect a family servant. A less sentimental man than he would not have gone to France where feelings against the nobles were so high. (2) His somewhat wrong idealism leads him to abandon his inheritance. He does not want to have anything to do with an estate where the rights of the poor people have been, for so long, trampled under foot. A man with a practical mind would have kept the estate and improved the condition of the people. It must however, be noted that his sentimentalism and idealism are based on a noble spirit.

Though Darnay is the hero of the novel, he is necessarily overshadowed by the dissipated Carton and is rather colourless.

3. Sydney Carton.

Sydney Carton is the one really great character in the novel. (1) He is a dissipated reckless man; but has a knowledge of his own defects. He frankly admits his weakness to Lucie Manette and Charles Darnay. (2) But he is a man of good abilities, though incapable of their directed exercise. He is a failure as an advocate, but his legal acumen is very keen. He is ever ready to help others, but is incapable of his own help. The reputation of Stryver as a barrister is entirely due to Carton; he

prepares cases for Stryver, and helps him in every possible way. (3) He is a man of good emotions and is not without depth in his character. He loves Lucie Manette, but, knowing of her attachment to Darnay, never attempts to win her. Her friendship, however, stirs his sentiments and calls out his good qualities so that he becomes capable of rising to the ideal of self-sacrifice.

Carton offers a contrast to Stryver. Stryver is sadly deficient in delicacy. He has no regard for the feelings of others as is clear from his blunt suggestion to Carton that he should marry a woman with property to provide a refuge in time of misfortune. Carton on the other hand, is shown to have great delicacy in him; out of respect for his friend, Stryver, he does not express his resentment at his proposal. Stryver is pushful, as is clear from his attitude when the first trial of Darnay is over; but Carton is modest and unassuming even when he is with Dr. Manette and Lucie. Stryver is proud and thinks too highly of himself; he is sure that Lucie would accept him for her husband, as in his opinion, she cannot find a better man for herself. Carton, on the other hand is conscious of his defects and feels that he is not worthy of Lucie. Stryver is dull-headed and has to depend on the intelligence of Carton for success in his profession. Stryver is the lion and Carton his jackal.

4. Jarvis Lorry.

He is a confidential clerk at the banking house of Tellson. (1) His long experience as a business man has made him orderly, precise and methodical.

(2) He is honest and shrewd and faithful to his employers : it is for these reasons that he is deputed to go to France when the French branch of the Bank is involved in peril. He is so careful for the interests of the Bank that he removes Lucie to a separate house, lest the presence of the wife of an emigrant in the bank-premise should imperil the safety of the bank. (3) He is tender-hearted and affectionate. As a friend of the Manette family he always keeps their interests at heart and it is through his loving service that Manette and Lucie are saved from the impending danger of the guillotine.

5. Monsieur Ernest Defarge.

Ernest Defarge, the keeper of a wine-shop in the suburb, of St. Antoine and the ringleader of the revolutionists in that quarter of the city, is a good-humoured, but implacible-looking man. (1) He is a man of a strong resolution and a set purpose. Having made up his mind to rise in revolt against the aristocratic government of France, he spares no pains to execute his resolution. He undertakes a long journey on foot at a great personal inconvenience and brings the mender of roads with him so that the revolutionaries may hear the story of Gaspard's execution from an eye-witness. (2) But unlike his wife, he is not altogether devoid of finer feelings. When his wife proposes the extermination of the Evremonde family he opposes her proposal on the ground that they must stop somewhere. He would gladly spare the lives of Lucie and her child for the sake of Dr. Manette whom he has served as a boy. He would not have denounced

Manette's son-in-law but for the insistence of his wife. Though a strong man himself, he readily yields to the force of his wife's character.

6 Madame Therese Defarge.

She is the wife of Ernest Defarge and leader of the Saint Antoine rabble of women in the revolution. (1) She has a watchful eye that seldom seems to look at anything. When Barsad enters the wine-shop for the first time, she at once recognises him as a spy of the aristocratic government and gives shrewd answers to his searching questions. (2) She is a dangerous woman, of fearless character and great determination. She does not know how to yield and is always seen in the thick of fight. Darnay must be executed and the Evremonde family exterminated because it is her will which no one can oppose. (3) She is absolutely without pity. She is not affected by the weeping entreaties of Lucie; she tramples the dying governor of the Bastille fortress under her foot and cuts off his head with her dagger. Imbued from her childhood with a brooding sense of wrong, and an inveterate hatred of the nobles, opportunity has developed her into a tigress.

7. Jerry Cruncher.

He is an odd-job man in Tellson's Bank and has been introduced mainly to lighten what would otherwise have been a somewhat oppressive atmosphere of sentiment and tragedy. He is rough and vulgar and it is this feature of his character which is responsible for boisterous humour in the novel.

His wife is continually saying her prayers which irritates him very much and one on occasion he flings pots at her. His views on "flopping" are those of vulgar superstition which attributed misfortune to it. He is also a resurrectionist.

8. Miss Pross.

Lucie's maid and sister of Solomon Pross. She is a grim, wild-looking woman with abrupt manners (cf. Madame Defarge) and singular habits but with a loving heart. (e. g. Lucie and Solomon).

VII. APPRECIATION AND CRITICISM.

This story holds a unique place among the fictions of its author. Perhaps the most striking difference between it and his other novels may seem to lie in the all but entire absence from it of any humour or attempt at humour. Not that his sources of humour were drying up.....For the humour of Dickens was to assert itself with unmistakable force in his next longer fiction, and was even before that, in some of his occasional papers, to give delightful proofs of its continued vigour. In the case of the *Tale of Two Cities*, he had a new and distinct design in his mind which did not indeed exclude humour, but with which a liberal indulgence in it must have seriously interfered. "I set myself," he writes, "the little task of writing a picturesque story, rising in every chapter with characters true to nature, but whom the story itself should express more than they should express themselves by dialogue. I mean, in other words, that I fancied a story of incident might be written, in place of the bestiality that is written under that

pretence, pounding the characters out in its own mortar, and beating their own interests out of them." He therefore renounced his more usual method in favour of one probably less congenial to him. Yet, in his own opinion at least, he succeeded so well in the undertaking, that when the story was near its end, he could venture to express a hope that it was "the best story he had written." So much praise will hardly be given to this novel even by admirers of the French art of telling a story succinctly, or by those who can never resist a rather historical treatment of the French Revolution.....

The construction of this story is..... skilful but not perfect. Dickens himself successfully defended his use of accident in bringing about the death of Madame Defarge; the real objection to the conduct of this episode, however, lies in the inadequacy of the contrivance for leaving Miss Pross behind in Paris. Too much is, also, I think, made to turn upon, the three words "and their descendants"—non-essential, in the original connexion—by which Dr. Manette's written denunciation becomes fatal to those he loves. Still the general edifice of the plot is solid; its interest is, notwithstanding the crowded background, concentrated with much skill upon a small group of personages; and Carton's self-sacrifice, admirably prepared from the very first, produces a legitimate tragic effect. At the same time, the novelist's triumph vindicates its own claims. Not only does this story contain several narrative episodes of remarkable power—such as the flight from Paris at the close,

and the touching little incident of the seamstress, told in Dickens' sweetest pathetic manner—but it is likewise enriched by some descriptive pictures of unusual excellence. Doubtless the increased mannerism of the style is disturbing, and this not only in the highstrung French scenes. As to the historical element in this novel, Dickens modestly avowed his wish that he might by his story have been able "to add something to the popular and picturesque means of understanding that terrible time, though no one can hope to add anything to Mr. Carlyle's wonderful book." But if Dickens desired to depict the noble of the *ancien regime*, either according to Carlyle or according to intrinsic probability, he should not have offered, in his Marquis, a type historically questionable, and unnatural besides. Altogether, the book is an extraordinary *tour de force*, which Dickens never repeated (Ward, *Dickens*.)

VIII. THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

For many years the government of France had been going on from bad to worse. Exhausted by perpetual wars the French people were prevented by cruel and unwise laws from making a proper use of the great natural riches of their country. The Government was in the hands of the king and of a few nobles, who knew little, and cared less, about the sufferings of the poor.

Meanwhile there had arisen in France a number of very clever writers and speakers who saw the badness of the Government, and the mischief which it did. These men set to work to preach to the people of France a new doctrine. They told

that so far from it being right that kings and nobles, should rule the people, the people ought to be free to rule themselves. They said it was a shame that a few should get rich while so many starved; that all men were really equal; and that everyone who set himself up above the people should be cast down from his high place. They pointed out that the foolish laws which had been made prevented the people from ever becoming prosperous or happy.

Many of the things which they said were true and wise; many were true but not wisely said; and some were neither true nor wise. But the burning words that were spoken and written, whether they were true or untrue, wise or unwise, were heard and read very eagerly by the starving and oppressed people of France, who were glad to be told that all their misfortunes came from their king and their government. And when men were in this mood, it was natural enough that they should think the time had come to get rid of the king and the government which they believed did them so much harm.

In the year 1789 began the great French Revolution, or rebellion of the French people against the government and the laws of France. The movement spread like wildfire through the country, and was especially strong in Paris and in one or two of the great towns. Every where men cried out for "*Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.*" All men, they said, should be free and equal, and as brothers to one another.

The great prison of the Bastille in Paris was attacked and destroyed, and messengers were sent

out to every country in Europe to teach foreign nations the new and wonderful doctrine of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." Unluckily, however, these great changes were not to be made peaceably. The hatred of those who so long had felt themselves oppressed soon broke out against the nobles and the rich—"Aristocrats," as they were called. Terrible scenes of bloodshed took place in Paris. Thousands of the "Aristocrats" were forced to emigrate from their country, and to take refuge in other lands. The king, Louis XVI, himself was made a prisoner in his own palace; and, though he tried to escape, he and his queen, Marie Antoinette, were caught and brought back to Paris.

Not content with crying out for "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," the leaders of the Revolution in Paris had begun to prosecute all those who did not agree with them. The *guillotine*—an instrument used for beheading criminals in France—was set up in Paris and scores of "Aristocrats" and others who were supposed to be enemies of the Revolution were seized and executed without trial. Massacres took place, and panic spread throughout the city. Louis XVI. had married Marie Antoinette, sister of the Emperor of Austria, and an Austrian army now marched into France to rescue the king and queen from the danger which threatened them.

Then was seen a wonderful sight. The leaders of the Revolution called upon all Frenchmen to come forward and fight against the Austria. To the surprise of all Europe, the ill clad, badly trained soldiers who marched into battle to the cry of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity," or singing

the *Marseillaise* – the great song of the Revolution proved more than a match for the veterans of Austria, and the invaders were defeated again and again.

Meanwhile the anger of the leaders against the king grew fiercer and fiercer. On the 17th of January, 1793, the National Convention, or Parliament of the Revolution, voted for the king's death; and on the 21st of January Louis XVI. was beheaded in the midst of a howling crowd in one of the public squares of Paris. On the 16th of October his beautiful queen followed him to the scaffold. (Arnold-Forster)

A Republic was proclaimed in France, and the most thoroughgoing lovers of change got possession of power. The period of their rule is called the *Reign of Terror*, since they sought to frighten everybody into obeying them by violence. Thousands of Frenchmen were beheaded besides the king and queen.

At first England was in sympathy with the French Revolution. Before long, however, opinion changed. The execution of the King and the Reign of Terror spread alarm over all Europe. Things looked more dangerous since the French urged all other nations to follow their example, and there were plenty of people in England, especially in the new manufacturing towns of the north, who were so dissatisfied with the existing state of things, that they might easily have done so. Austria and Prussia went to war against France, and in 1793, after the execution of Louis XVI., France declared war against England. (Tout)

SUMMARY CHAPTER BY CHAPTER BOOK I

CHAPTER I.

Conditions in France and England preceding the Revolution. In both countries the ruling class is unsympathetic to the people and the people are discontented and on the verge of revolution. In France the people openly question the authority of the Church and the law and the Clergy enforce their intolerent laws by inhuman persecution. In England, life and property are insecure, lawlessness prevails and order has to be restored, as far as possible, by drastic measures.

CHAPTER II.

Difficulties of the journey from London to Dover: road not safe for travelling; travellers suspicious of one another also. The mail coach goes from London to Dover with Jarvis Lorry as one of the three travellers. Tellson's Bank despatches Jerry post haste to deliver a message to Lorry. He overtakes the coach at Shooter's Hill and gets "Recalled to Life" from Lorry as an answer to his message. The answer dejects him very much, for he thinks that if recalling to life comes into fashion, his profession of a Resurrectionist will terminate.

CHAPTER III.

The mystery of the message and its answer suggests to the novelist reflections on the impossibility of any human being attaining complete

knowledge of the life or character of any of his fellows. The coach is lumbering on and Lorry is talking to himself. Lorry's imagination draws vivid pictures of how the bank business is run.— His real errand is to assist at the release of a person who has been a prisoner for 18 years but fancy represents this as recalling to life from the grave.

CHAPTER IV.

The mail reaches Dover after a night's journey. Lorry puts up at the Royal George Hotel and instructs the chief waiter to prepare accommodation for a young lady who may come any time. As soon as Lorry has finished his breakfast Lucie arrives at the hotel instructed by the Tellson's Bank to meet its representative at Dover and to go to Paris with him on important business connected with her property. In a gentle and clever way he gives her the surprising news that her father is alive, that he has been released after a long imprisonment and that he has to bring him back to England with her assistance. The news proves too surprising for Lucie and she falls into a fainting fit from which she soon recovers with the aid of hotelwaiters.

CHAPTER V.

This chapter opens with a description of the misery and hunger of a suburb of Paris, St. Antoine, and shows that the discontented and oppressed people are almost on the verge of revolt.

Dr. Manette has been taken to the house of an old servant, Defarge, the keeper of a wine-shop in Paris. Lorry and Lucie arrive at the wine-shop.

They are the associate-conspirators of Defarge with their identity disguised under the common name of Jacques and are allowed by him to have glimpses of the wrecked old man, the innocent victim of aristocratic oppression, to fan their revolutionary ardour into a flame. We have also the first mention of Gaspard, whose hatred of the upper classes was soon to exhibit itself in his murder of the Marquis of Evremonde.

CHAPTER VI.

This chapter gives a pathetic picture of the mental weakness to which Dr. Manette has been reduced by his solitary confinement and of the beginnings of a revival of his faculties through the influence of his daughter.

Dr. Manette is sitting in his dark and dim room, engaged in shoe-making. Defarge and Lorry approach him and try to revive his memory; but he hardly understands what they say and it is after tremendous efforts that he finds words to mutter disjointed replies. Lucie now approaches him. He happens to raise his eyes, sees her face and stares at her with a fearful look. Lucie's kisses have the effect of rousing his dormant feelings. He compares her hair with a lock of his wife's hair which he has with him in a little pocket. They resemble closely. Some sort of memory is returning to him and he asks Lucie who she is. In a tactful way she gives the information and Dr. Manette sinks in her arms in the midst of tears. He is allowed to rest for a while, and is then taken to England. Many times in the darkness of

their night-journey the doubt presents itself before Lorry's mind: "Will he care to be restored to life?"

BOOK II.

CHAPTER I.

Opens with a description of Tellson's Bank. It is an old-fashioned place, with old clerks and servants, dark and incommodious rooms and conservative ways.

The porter of the bank is Jerry Cruncher, who together with his son are the only humorous characters in the novel. To form an idea of Cruncher's mentality we are introduced to his private lodging. His family life does not seem to be happy. As soon as he wakes in the morning he rebukes his wife for praying, as he thinks that her prayers are directed against him and his son. While Cruncher makes his toilet his son keeps watch upon his mother lest she should pray again. At breakfast Cruncher is worried again by his wife's saying grace. The father and the son then go to Tellson's Bank.

[There are incidental references to Cruncher's nefarious business, in the "odd circumstance" (p. 39) and in his "boot-cleaning" (p. 40).]

CHAPTER II.

Throws some light on the insanitary condition of English prisons, the cruelty of the criminal law and the prevailing absence of humanity.

Jerry Cruncher is ordered to go to old Bailey to meet Lorry to whom he delivers a letter in the court-room. Old Bailey is attracting hundreds of spectators for Charles Darnay is to be tried for high treason. There is joy on the face of the spectators as they see the prisoner in peril of a horrible sentence. Another object of attention is a young lady of about twenty with her old father, who have been summoned to appear as witnesses against the prisoner. The judge enters the court-room,

CHAPTER III.

Trial begins. The attorney-general, in his opening speech for the prosecution, accuses Darnay as a false traitor to the King of England by reason of his having assisted the French King in his wars against England, by constantly coming and going between the two countries and giving information as to the military strength of England. The accusation is based on the papers and information supplied by one Barsad, who is spoken of by the attorney-general as an unimpeachable patriot. Barsad is alleged to have got the papers through Darnay's own servant, Roger Cly.

The prosecution has five witnesses to produce. John Barsad is the first to appear in the box. He supports the prosecution theory. Stryker, the counsel for the defence, cross-examines him to show that he is a professional spy; a man of low character and, therefore, an untrustworthy witness. Roger Cly is now produced as witness, who deposes to have taken out the objectionable papers from Darnay's desk and to have given them to Barsad from

mere patriotic motives. In cross-examination he is shown to have been suspected of stealing a silver tea-pot. Lorry now comes into the witness-box and in reply to the attorney-general's questions he expresses his uncertainty as to Darnay's having ever travelled with him from London to Dover.

In her evidence Miss Manette deposes that Darnay has been her fellow-passenger across the Channel, that she has seen him whispering to his French friends at the port and showing some papers to them and that he has talked to her in a jesting way about Washington and George III in connection with the American war. Dr. Manette is also examined, but he cannot identify the prisoner as his fellow-passenger as he was then almost unconscious.

A singular circumstance now arises in the case. A witness is called to identify the prisoner as having been in the coffee-room of a hotel in a garrison where he is said to have gone in the Dover Mail Coach on getting out of the ship to gather information about English troops. A barrister named Sydney Carton who is sitting in the court-room finds out that his face is exactly like that of Darnay and gives a hint to his friend, Stryver, to ask the witness if he has ever seen any person resembling the prisoner. The witness replies in the negative. Sydney Carton stands up and shows his face. The resemblance is so close that it weakens the case against Darnay and the Jury after some hesitation acquits him.

CHAPTER IV.

Lorry, Stryver, Dr. and Miss Manette gather round Darnay outside the court-room and congratulate him on his release. Darnay and Lorry praise Stryver for his legal acumen and Stryver accepts their compliments with self-complacency. Dr. Manette and Lucie go home. Carton now joins Lorry and Darnay. It is evident from the conversation which follows that the resemblance between Carton and Darnay is superficial only and that their character is widely different. Lorry tries to convince Carton that business is a very respectable thing, but Carton's hatred for what is serious and solid is too great to overcome. Lorry is carried off to Tellson's and Carton and Darnay retire to a tavern. The frivolity of Carton's character is shown more clearly here. They two drink to the health of Miss Manette, and Darnay leaves Carton alone to sleep in the tavern.

CHAPTER V.

Brings out the career and character of Carton by contrast with those of Stryver. Carton walks out from a tavern at 10 o'clock at night to the house of Stryver. Carton helps Stryver in his professional work by "extracting the essence from a heap of statements." He cudgels his brains up to three in the morning, regaling himself every now and then with glasses of wine. In the course of conversation Stryver refers to their school days when Carton used to do exercises for other boys but seldom for himself. Carton is to Stryver what a jackal is to a lion.

[" In Stryver a deficiency of intellectual ability and coarse tastes and feelings are balanced by unscrupulous pushfulness. In Carton high talents and delicacy of feeling are impaired by aimlessness and reckless dissipation."]

CHAPTER VI.

Introduces us to the house of Dr. Manette on one Sunday afternoon. Lorry goes to pay a visit to the family. Dr. and Miss Manette are out to see the Tower and Lorry engages in a long conversation with the chief house-maid, Miss Pross. She does not like that people should come to visit Lucie and exaggerates their number to "Hundreds." Lorry learns from Miss Pross that Dr. Manette has not altogether forgotten his past misfortunes that he tries to avoid this subject and that he has mental relapses occasionally from which he is revived by the loving services of Lucie.

Lorry has his dinner with Dr. and Miss Manette, after which they go out into the open and sit under the plane-tree Darnay joins them and relates a story about an old dungeon in the Tower (p. 73). The story upsets the doctor for it reminds him of what he himself did at the Bastille. They go inside for tea and Carton also joins them. A terrible storm breaks out and a corner of the house resounds with the echoes of footsteps coming and going. They are prophetic of the effect which the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror were to exercise on the lives of the whole party. They disperse at a late hour in the night when the storm passed away.

CHAPTER VII.

This chapter depicts the character of the French nobles and represents them as completely degenerate, self-interested and heartless. There is a complete lack of sympathy existing between them and the poor. The nobles roll in luxuries and expect abject servility from the common people. The Marquis of Evremonde exemplifies all the worst qualities of a noble. The Marquis is driving in his carriage furiously through the narrow streets of Paris, careless of the lives of common people. The carriage runs over a child and stops. He is not moved by the wild shrieks of Gaspard, the unfortunate father. The only thing about which the Marquis seems to care is the safety of his horses. Defarge happens to come on the scene of this incident and tries to console Gaspard. The Marquis throws a piece of gold to Gaspard as a compensation for the death of his son and another to Defarge for his advice to the unfortunate father. The people are in such a terror of the nobles that they utter no word of complaint. As the carriage moves on the gold coin is thrown back into it. The Marquis stops the carriage and in rage informs the people that he would ride over any of them willingly and that if he knew who has thrown the coin into the carriage he would place him under the wheels of his carriage to be crushed to death.

CHAPTER VIII.

This chapter gives a picture of the condition of the French peasants. It tells us how miserable they are and how indifferent the nobles are to

their sufferings. The Marquis is driving through the country. On his way up a hill he sees a road-mender looking intently at the bottom of his carriage. The Marquis reaches a posting-house gate and the poor peasants with their submissive and drooping faces gather together to get a distant view of him. The road-mender joins the group and the Marquis calls upon him to explain why he gazed at the carriage. The road-mender tells the Marquis that he saw a man hanging below the carriage with a chain, his head swinging to and fro like that of a dead man. [This man was Gaspard]. The Marquis orders Gabelle, the Postmaster, to be on a look-out for the man and resumes his journey. His carriage halts again by the side of a rock-hewn cross and a woman applies to him in pitiful words for a slab of stone or wood to mark the grave of her husband who has recently died of hunger and want. The Marquis rejects her requests in scorn and passes on. He reaches his country mansion and learns that his nephew, Charles, has not arrived.

CHAPTER IX.

[This chapter shows how different the Marquis of Evremonde and Charles Darnay are in character and how the Marquis deserves his fate,]

We are introduced to the house of the Marquis Evremonde. How magnificent his house is ! He has just begun his dinner when he sees two eyes peering through the window. He orders a search but nothing is found. His nephew, Darnay who arrives from London joins him at his dinner. After the dinner they talk about the affairs of the family.

The Marquis believes in repression as "the only lasting philosophy" and thinks that "detestation of the high is the involuntary homage of the low." The poor, in the opinion of the Marquis, must be kept in constant fear of the rich who should have, as of old, "the right of life and death over the surrounding vulgar." Charles Darnay is a man of a different character. He contradicts the Marquis throughout and rightly believes that the position of the members of Evermonde family is very dangerous. He therefore advises the Marquis to be more humane in his treatment of the poor. Darnay finally renounces his claim to the family property.

They retire to their sleeping rooms. In the morning the Marquis is found killed.

[He has been disposed of by Gaspard who managed to get into the house secretly at night. The two eyes peering through the window were his.]

CHAPTER X.

Darnay is established in England as a higher teacher of French. He has been in love with Lucie for sometime. He goes to visit Dr. Manette and finding him alone opens his heart to him. With great delicacy for the Doctor's feelings Darnay offers himself as a suitor for the hand of his daughter. This proposal upset the Doctor ; but on Darnay's assuring him that his marriage will not mean the separation of his daughter from him the Doctor promises not to oppose the suit. Darnay is asked to go away and Miss Manette comes back with Miss Pross from her business. The daughter finds her father in a state in a perturbation.

CHAPTER XI.

Stryver and Carton have finished their preparations for the Court-work. It is 5 o'clock in the morning and Stryver tells Carton that he is going to offer himself as a suitor for the hand of Lucie. Stryver is sure of his success, and in his arrogance he regards an offer from himself as an honour which no one but a fool would refuse. He also proposes to Carton to find out some respectable woman of property and marry her to provide a refuge in time of misfortune. [This Chapter throws more light on Stryver's character]

CHAPTER XII.

Stryver goes to Lorry at Tellson's Bank and with an air of self-importance tells him that he is going to offer himself in marriage to Miss Manette. To assure Lorry of his success Stryver emphasises his prosperous present and future prospects. Lorry does not think that this will be a strong allure-ment to Lucie, on which Stryver calls her "a Ming-ing Fool" to which Lorry as her friend takes exception. Stryver has to be told in plain terms by Lorry that he is courting a refusal from Lucie and her father. Stryver then adopts the artifices of a lawyer to prove that he never seriously intended a proposal.

"Dickens does not venture to subject Lucie to the pain of a direct refusal. Characters so emotional as she are not to be exposed to unnecessary

CHAPTER XIII.

Carton visits Lucie while she is alone. In the midst of tears he tells her how she has been the cause of reviving the noble feelings which he imagined to be dead in him and how impossible it is for her to have compassion on a profligate incapable of improving his life. There is so much sincerity in his confessions that Lucie feels for him and speaks to him in encouraging words. He promises to do anything for her and for any dear to her and with a last "God bless you" leaves her.

"Carton proves to have as great delicacy as, and perhaps deeper insight than, Darnay : and a knowledge of his own defects which Styver lacks. He shows that there is greater depth in his character and greater possibility of good than others suspect. The promise that he makes at the end is destined to have good results."

CHAPTER XIV.

Illustrates the power and the unruly condition of the London mob and provides Carton with the means of saving the life of Darnay, vide Chapter 8, Book III. It has therefore, a distinct place in the development of the story.

Jerry with his son is sitting at the gate of Tellson's Bank when he sees a funeral coming followed by a crowd : He is told it is the funeral of Roger Cly, the old Bailey Spy. On hearing this the crowd makes up its mind to pull the dead body out but on the proposal of "some brighter genius" it is decided to escort the hearse to its destination amidst general rejoicing. Jerry accompanies the crowd

leaving his son behind. The dead man having been disposed of, the crowd indulges in excesses of a different kind. It bullies scores of casual passers-by and even goes to the extent of pulling down and plundering public-houses. The rumour that the Guards are coming disperses the crowd. Jerry goes back to the Bank and thence to his house. He rebukes his wife as usual, warns her against praying and starts on his nefarious occupation at a late hour in the night. His son slips out of his bed and follows the father. Jerry is joined by two others on the way. They reach the churchyard after several trials and begin to dig the grave of Roger, but to their extreme mortification discover that the funeral was a sham. The son leaves the place earlier than the father and frightened by the sight runs headlong to the house. The son gets up early next morning to see his mother being ruthlessly beaten by his father who attributes his ill-luck to the prayers of his wife. Jerry and young Jerry start for the Bank. On being questioned by the son, the father tells him indirectly what a resurrectionist is. The father is gratified to know that his son is so much interested in his paternal profession.

CHAPTER XV.

The purpose of this chapter is to show the growth of the spirit of revenge and violence amongst the lower orders.

There is an unusual seriousness in the wine-shop in Saint Antoine. Two men all dusty with walking along country roads enter the shop. One of them is Defarge and the other is the road-mender who had seen the tall man hanging beneath the carriage

of the Marquis. As they enter the shop three men go out of it one by one. Defarge now asks the road-mender to come with him so that he may show him the room which he can occupy. They go to the same room where Dr. Manette had been lodged and find the three men sitting there. They are the same revolutionaries the Jacques who had been permitted by Defarge to peep into Manette's garret. The road-mender relates to them the story of Gaspard's execution—how he had been hiding himself for full one year when he was found out and arrested, how he was driven with muskets to the gallows and executed after being confined in a cage. This story excites them beyond control and they determine that the whole family and mansion of the Marquis shall be destroyed. Madame Defarge is entrusted with the duty of keeping a record of the aristocrats who are thus doomed. Mr. and Mrs. Defarge and the road-mender then go to Versailles to see the royal procession.

CHAPTER XVI.

Defarge had many friends among the police and the soldiers. As he returns from Versailles late at night he meets one of them and is told that another spy, John Barsad, an Englishman has been assigned to watch St. Antoine, a suspicious quarter in the eye of the French Government. He gives the details of his appearance to his wife. The husband and wife discuss the prospects of a popular rising, the husband showing signs of impatience and dis-appointment at the delay. About noon the next day Barsad comes for the first time to the wine-shop and finds Madame Defarge knitting.

The spy pretends to be one of the revolutionists and attempts to know the feelings of the people towards the Government. He shows great sympathy for Gaspard speaks in touching words of the misery of the people, shows his knowledge of Defarge's connection with Dr. Manette and gives the news of Miss Manette's proposed marriage with the present Marquis of Evermonde. This intelligence produces a palpable effect upon Defarge which the spy notices. Beyond this he does not get anything out of them. Defarge is sorry that the name of his old master's son-in-law should have to be registered in his wife's knitting along with that of the spy.

CHAPTER XVII.

On the eve of her marriage Manette assures Lucie that her marriage will make him more happy. In the course of conversation the doctor refers to the period of his suffering for the first time. The dark shadows of the prison are still hanging over him. He is reminded of the visions that he saw in the prison—the visions of his wife, of a son who would some day avenge his father, of a daughter leading him out into freedom. They have their supper and retire. Lucie goes to his room late at night to see how he is doing and kisses her sleeping father.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Lorry is proud to think that the girl who is going to be married was once rescued by him, while he is talking in a light strain to Miss Pross, the Doctor is speaking with Charles Darnay within the closed door of his room. Darnay, Lucie, Miss Pross and

Lorry go to the church where the first two are happily married. They return home for breakfast after which the married couple start on their honeymoon trip. They propose to spend a fortnight at Warwickshire and then to go, with Dr. Manette, for another fortnight to Wales. Lorry and Miss Pross notice a curious change in Dr. Manette. The knowledge (obtained from Darnay in private conversation) that his daughter has married the son and nephew of his oppressors produces a relapse in him. He once again resorts to shoe-making and continues in this impaired state of his mind for full nine days. Lorry and Miss Pross agree to keep his condition secret from all and from Lucie.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Doctor shows signs of returning consciousness on the tenth day. In a tactful and indirect manner, under cover of advice, Lorry exacts from Manette the cause of the relapse. It was not caused by his studious habits, but by "a strong and extraordinary revival of the train of thought and remembrance that was the first cause of madness." Lorry obtains the permission of the Doctor to destroy the instruments of shoe-making when he is not there. They pass the rest of the day in the country and the doctor is quite restored. On the fourth day he goes away to join Lucie and her husband and in his absence Lorry destroys the instruments of shoe-making.

CHAPTER XX.

The newly-married pair come home and the first person who appears to offer his congratulations

is Sydney Carton. Carton is conscious of his incurable failings and feels that he is unworthy of Darnay's friendship; but the impression which Lucie has made on him is so deep and permanent that he cannot help asking Darnay to grant him the privilege of coming to him at "odd times." When Darnay joins Lucie in their own rooms, she pleads to him on Carton's behalf and Darnay promises to show more consideration and respect to him.

CHAPTER XXI.

Seven years have passed since the marriage of Lucie and she has been blessed with a daughter. They are living happily with Dr. Manette. Carton occasionally visits the family. Stryver has been married to a widow with property and three boys. He is the same presumptuous and arrogant man as he used to be. Lorry is a frequent visitor to the family. On this occasion he expresses some concern at the uneasiness prevailing in Paris and questions Lucie about the echoes which she fancies she hears.

The storm has broken out in Paris. Saint Antoine is a seething mass of raging men and women. Every man and woman is mad with a fierce, implacable passion for revenge. Defarge as the head of the revolution is distributing weapons among the people. The very first place to which the angry mob rushes is the Bastille. After four hours resistance the fortress is surrendered and the infuriated people rush into it. The prisoners are set free and Defarge goes to inspect the cell in which Manette had been kept as a prisoner. He

sees the letters "A. M." scratched on the wall. He then breaks open the chimney, where he finds something which he thrusts into his pocket. (This is a piece of paper on which Manette had written the story of his imprisonment.) While the governor of the Bastille is being dragged for trial to the Hall of Justice, stabs and blows rain upon him and when he drops dead Madame Defarge puts her foot upon his neck, and with her cruel knife hews off his head.

CHAPTER XXII.

Excitement continues. A week after the storming of the Bastille, Defarge brings the news of Foulon's arrest. This French officer is alleged to have said that the starving people might eat grass and that if he were a minister he would compel them to browse like cattle. On the fall of the Bastille he retired to his country house, caused the news of his death to be spread abroad, and even had a sham funeral. He is however, betrayed by his own servants, seized by the peasants and dragged on foot to Paris to be tried in the Hall of Justice. The news of his arrest sends a thrill of excitement in the men and women of Saint Antoine. They all rush to the Hall of Justice including the women under the leadership of Madame Defarge assisted by "The Vengeance." They are so impatient in their fury that before the trial is over, Foulon is dragged out and hanged after merciless beatings. his head is cut off and fixed on a long pole with his mouth full of grass. His son-in-law, Berthier also meets the same fate. The spoils of day are now carried in procession through the streets. This happens on July, 22 1789.

CHAPTER. XXIII.

After two nights' trying journey the emissary of the revolutionists reaches the estate of Evremonde family at noon. With the help of the mender of roads he comes to know the position of the Chateau. He is tired and falls asleep and is roused by the mender of the roads in the evening. He sets about organising the burning of the Chateau. When the night deepens fire is set to it from four directions and in a short time it is all ablaze. The toc-in rings impatiently, the rider from the Chateau cries " Help," but no one stirs out, not even the officers and soldiers of the prison. The villagers are enjoying the sight. They gather round the house of Gabelle who had to do with the collection of rents and taxes, and are impatient for an interview with him. He foresees the danger, shuts his house securely and himself goes to the house-top. The burning of the Chateau continues the whole night. The chapter also alludes to similar occurrences throughout France.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The storm still continues in France. The nobles are emigrating to England and Tellson's Bank is their head-quarters. The king has been suspended from office; all Government has been paralysed. The will of the Paris mob is the only effective law.

One day in August 1792 Darnay is in Tellson's trying in vain to persuade Lorry from going over to Paris to safeguard the interests of the French branch of the Bank. As Darnay is talking, a letter

is brought addressed to him as "Monsieur heretofore the Marquis St. Evremonde." The French nobles lounging about Tellson's and Stryver who happens to be there have something contemptuous to say about him. When these have gone, Darnay offers to deliver the letter to the addressee. It is from Gabelle who appeals to Darnay to come and save him from the mob as he has been thrown into the prison of the Abbaye awaiting his trial for being the tax-collector of the Evremonde family. Darnay makes up his mind to go for the help of a faithful family-servant and expects good reception from the mob against whose interests he has done nothing. He goes to Lorry in the evening to see him off and asks him to convey to Gabelle, on behalf of the person addressed to by him, that he would be coming very soon. To spare Lucie the pain of separation and her father the danger of reviving old associations of France Darnay departs for France on the following day without informing them, leaving letters for them behind.

BOOK III.

CHAPTER I.

Darnay has travelled a few miles of his journey when he begins to see that there is little hope of return. In every place there are armed citizens and everybody is examined before he is allowed to proceed. In a little town, on the high road, still a long way from Paris, he is roughly awakened in the

middle of the night by a local official and three armed soldiers in red caps and told that he is to be sent on to Paris under an escort. When they come to the town of Beauvais, a crowd gathers around him and many voices call loudly "Down with the emigrant"—Such is the feeling of the people against emigrants. He is on the point of being roughly handled by the mob when the escort conducts him into the yard and shuts the double gate. They start again at mid-night when all is quiet and arrive before the walls of Paris early next morning. On papers being shown to the guard they are allowed to cross the barrier. Darnay has to wait for half an hour on his saddle and is then taken into a room where a man is sitting at the table. After a few questions the man asks Defarge to take Darnay to the prison of La Force with the words "In secret." Darnay protests and declares his innocence, but it is of no avail. The Revolutionary Government has passed new decrees denouncing all emigrants. On his way to the prison Darnay in vain asks Defarge to communicate to Lorry the fact that he has been ordered to go to La Force. Darnay is taken into a vaulted chamber and thence to his lonely cell in the prison of La Force amidst expressions of sympathy from other prisoners.

CHAPTER II.

Tellson's Bank, in Paris, is in a wing of a large house which has once belonged to a great nobleman. The house has been confiscated and is used for public purposes by the citizen patriots. Lorry is thinking deeply of the troubled times when all of a sudden the door opens one evening and Manette and

Lucie enter accompanied by the child and Miss Pross. Lorry is shocked when Lucie tells him that her husband is a prisoner at La Force. Almost at the same time a loud noise of feet and voices comes pouring into the court-yard—a band of ruffians is coming to sharpen their weapons at the grindstone. The doctor turns towards the window, whereupon Lorry asks him impatiently not to look out. The doctor assures Lorry that no harm can come to him as he has “a charmed life in this city” having been a Bastille prisoner. There upon Lorry tells him not to lose even one moment and make himself known to the mob and be taken to La Force. Lorry then hurries Lucie into his room. The doctor introduces himself to the people in the court-yard who welcome him with cries of “Live the Bastille prisoner! Help for the Bastille prisoner’s kindred in La Force.” Assisted by then he goes in search of Darnay.

CHAPTER III.

Lorry removes Lucie to a house closeby lest the presence of an emigrant’s wife should imperil the Bank. In the evening Defarge brings a short note from Manette to Lorry asking him to deliver the other note to Lucie. They go to Lucie’s house and are joined in the court-yard by Madame Defarge and the Vengeance. The note is delivered to Lucie which shows that Darnay is hopeful for Manette is exerting his influence in his favour. The suppressed manner and threatening expression of Madame Defarge alarms Lucie and she implores her in the most pathetic terms to be merciful, but gets a cold disappointing response. Lorry tries to encourage her.

CHAPTER IV.

Dr. Manette is taken to the prison of La Force through a scene of terrible bloodshed. There is a self-appointed Tribunal sitting in the prison of which Defarge is a member. Dr. Manette is greeted as a Bastille prisoner and succeeds in his endeavour to have Darnay brought before the court and examined. He is on the point of being released when for some unknown reason he is sent back to interior of the prison, under the guarantee that he should be held inviolate in safe custody. The doctor returns on the evening of the fourth day of his absence. Manette now devotes himself to working as a physician amongst all classes and is soon appointed the inspecting physician of three prisons and among them of La Force. He sees Darnay weekly and brings Lucie messages from him.

Charles Darnay has been in prison for a year and three months. The public current of the time has set too strong against him. A new era has begun. The king has been executed and France has been declared a Republic. A Revolutionary Tribunal has been set up to try summarily all charged with hostility to the state and nation; a Committee of General Security and a Committee of Public Safety to hunt down and punish political crime. A Law of Suspects empowered the government to imprison any one who is suspected and denounced. The Reign of Terror has set in.

CHAPTER V.

Manette finds out a way of bringing the wife and the husband closer. On some days at three in the afternoon Charles can look out from an upper window in the prison ; and, although she cannot see him, Lucie walks in a certain place every day from two until four. On the third day of her being there, a wood-cutter who has his house closeby notices her and they exchange greetings calling each other "citizen" or "citizeness". They often meet each other and to secure his good will she often gives him drink-money. (The wood-cutter is no other than the "mender of roads"). One afternoon while she is going to the usual place Lucie is caught in a Carmagnole. She is frightened at the sight when Manette happens to join her. Directed by Manette she kisses her hand towards Darnay's window. Madame Defarge passes by and Manette and she exchange salutation. The doctor informs Lucie that Darnay is summoned for trial on the next day. They go to give the news to Lorry and, as they enter, he hurries some visitor into an inner room. (The visitor is Carton).

CHAPTER VI.

After fifteen prisoners have been condemned in an hour and a half Charles Darnay is summoned before the Tribunal of five judges. The Court-room is thronged with armed men and women. Mr. and Mrs. Defarge are there. Darnay is accused by the public prosecutor as an emigrant, whose life is forfeit to the Republic. "Take off his head" is the cry of the audience. In answer to the question of the President, Darnay deposes that he has lived

for many years in England by his own industry rather than on the industry of the overladen people of France, that he has given up his title and position as they are distasteful to him, that his statement can be verified by Gabelle and his father-in-law Manette, and that he has returned to France on the pressing and written entreaty of a French citizen, Gabelle, to save his life. The mention of his relationship with Manette softens the heart of the audience and brings it over to his side: Gabelle's letter is produced and read and Gabelle confirms it. Doctor Manette is next questioned. He shows that the accused was his first friend on his release from his long imprisonment, that he has throughout been faithful to him and his daughter and that he has actually been tried for his life as the foe of the aristocratic Government and friend of the Republic. The force and earnestness of his evidence made the jury and the populace one. The jury returns the verdict of "Not guilty" and the President declares him free amidst the applause of the crowd.

CHAPTER VII.

On the evening after Darnay's acquittal, the Manette family was wondering how soon it would be possible to leave Paris. Miss Pross and Jerry (who for the time being, is attached to the Manette household) are out to buy food and wine. Darnay, Lucie and Manette are sitting quietly, awaiting Lorry's evening visit when suddenly strange footsteps are heard on the steps and a blow is struck on the door. The doctor opens the door and four men in red caps enter the room. One of them tells Darnay that he is again the prisoner of the

Republic. . . being questioned by Dr. Manette he is told that Darnay has been denounced by the Citizen and Citizeness Defarge and by one other whose name is not given. Darnay is led away.

CHAPTER VIII.

Having made their small purchases, Miss Pross and Jerry turn finally into a wine-shop to buy wine. While their wine is being measured a man rises from a corner and turns to depart. He comes face to face with Miss Pross who recognises in him her brother, Solomon. She complains to him of his neglect in touching words, but he hurries his sister out of the shop and there is evident coldness in his words. He emphatically asks her to go away as her talking to him would injure his interests. Jerry interrupts their conversation and asks him what he was called when he was a spy-witness at the Bailey. At this stage Sydney Carton strikes in and answers Jerry's question by saying "Barsad." Carton tells Barsad that he has seen him coming from the prison of the Conciergerie, has followed him into the wine-shop and listened to his conversation. On Carton's request Barsad accompanied him to Lorry's lodging. Sydney Carton conveys to Lorry the news of Darnay's arrest which he has heard from Barsad. Carton shows Barsad that there are so many suspicious circumstances against him,—such as his living under a false name, his having been employed as a spy by the aristocratic English government, the enemy of France, his association with another Englishman a French spy, Cly (whom he has seen with Barsad at the wine-

shop),—that if he were denounced as a foe to the Republic he would be in very grave danger of the guillotine. Barsad knows how dangerous his position is for he remembers another weak point which Carton does not know how the terrible Madame Defarge once saw through his spying under the lately overthrown government. Barsad is puzzled but protests against calling Cly his “fellow-sheep” for as he says, Cly has been dead several years. Jerry, who is standing behind, gets excited and gives a lie to Barsad’s statement. Carton then asked Barsad to retire to a separate room and have one final word alone. [Barsad accepts Carton’s proposal.]

CHAPTER IX.

While Barsad and Carton are talking in the dark room, Lorry takes Jerry to task, for Jerry’s excited contradiction of Barsad’s claim about Cly has given him a strong ground to suspect his former occupation. Threatened with dismissal Jerry admits in a round about way and promises to give it up. In the meantime Carton comes out, his threat having ended in Barsad’s accepting his proposal. Carton joins Lorry and tells him that he has ensured access to Charles Darnay with the help of the spy but the actual nature of the plans Carton does not confide even to him. He accompanies Lorry to the gate of Lucie’s house and asks him not to tell her of him or of the interview. To follow in her footsteps Carton treads her path to the prison of La force and stands before it about ten o’clock at night. The wood-sawyer attracts his notice and they exchange greetings. Sydney, has not gone,

This cruel treatment continued till he died on the bosom of his wife. Then she was taken away by the noble. I followed him with my sword and when he found me in his palace he gave me this sword-thrust." The boy here stops and dies. The case of the girl is also hopeless and she too dies within two days. The Marquis then requests Manette to keep the whole thing secret. Manette finds it impossible to do so and on the following morning he writes a private letter to the Minister giving all the details of the story. In the evening on the same day he is called by a man outside for an urgent case. The carriage is waiting at the door and he gets into it. As soon as he is out of the street, a muffler is drawn lightly over his head and his arms are bound. The two brothers come out from the dark corner of a street and the Marquis shows him the letter which he has written to the Minister and burns it before him. He is then taken to the Bastille to be kept as a prisoner. The document concludes with the following words :—

"And them and their descendants, to the last of their race, I, Alexandre Manette, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all these things shall be answered for. I denounce them to Heaven and to Earth."

(The document was written in 1767)

CHATER XI.

On the recommendation of Barsad the guard permits Darnay to embrace Lucie and to have a few parting words. Lucie faints and is borne to

CHAPTER X.

(Trial Continues.)

The document recites the story of the Doctor's sufferings, details the abominable iniquities of the St. Evremonde family (to which Darnay belongs), and ends by denouncing them and their descendants, to the last of the race, to the times when all such things shall be answered for. A terrible sound arises when the reading of the document is done. Charles Darnay is declared to be enemy of the Republic and sentenced to die within twenty-four hours. He has to wait for his execution in the prison of the Conciergerie.

Summary of the document:

One evening in December 1757 Doctor Manette is out for a walk when a carriage drives up and two young nobles come out and ask him to go with them immediately for an urgent case. Doctor Manette goes with them and finds a young handsome girl screaming aloud and staring. Then he is taken to another room where he finds a peasant boy almost on the point of death with a sword-thrust at the back of his head. The boy relates his story. He says "The girl you have seen in the other room is my sister. She was married to an honest peasant and one of these two Everemonde brothers, the brother of the Marquis, saw my sister and fell in love with her. He asked her husband to send her to him for satisfying his wicked love; but the husband refused. In order to compel him to lend his wife to the noble, he was put to the cart during a day and made to quiet the frogs at night;

This cruel treatment continued till he died on the bosom of his wife. Then she was taken away by the noble. I followed him with my sword and when he found me in his palace he gave me this sword-thrust." The boy here stops and dies. The case of the girl is also hopeless and she too dies within two days. The Marquis then requests Manette to keep the whole thing secret. Manette finds it impossible to do so and on the following morning he writes a private letter to the Minister giving all the details of the story. In the evening on the same day he is called by a man outside for an urgent case. The carriage is waiting at the door and he gets into it. As soon as he is out of the street, a muffler is drawn lightly over his head and his arms are bound. The two brothers come out from the dark corner of a street and the Marquis shows him the letter which he has written to the Minister and burns it before him. He is then taken to the Bastille to be kept as a prisoner. The document concludes with the following words :—

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CHATER XI.

On the recommendation of Barsad the guard permits Darnay to embrace Lucie and to have a few parting words. Lucie faints and is borne to

the carriage by Carton in his arms. When the carriage arrives at Manette's house, Carton lifts her again and lays her down on a couch. On Lorry's suggestion Doctor Manette makes up his mind to make another attempt for Darnay's release and hopes to return to Lorry's by 9 o'clock in the evening, where Carton may hear what he has been able to do. Lorry and Carton go out and have no hope of Manette's success.

CHAPTER XII.

Carton goes out into the streets at 7 o'clock in the evening, his object being to make his face familiar to the people so that the removal of Darnay from the prison may excite no suspicion. He goes into Defarge's wine-shop and asks for a glass of wine, deliberately speaking in bad broken French. Jacques Three and The Vengeance are the only other customers in the shop; and, fearing nothing from the stranger who apparently knows so little French, they continue their conversation. Citizeness Defarge is bent upon the extermination of the whole Evremonde family. She is the sister of the wounded girl and the boy on whom Dr. Manette attended and nothing short of extermination can satisfy her. Lucie and her girl and even the Doctor are therefore in danger of life. Carton returns to Lorry's at the appointed hour. Lorry goes to Lucie and comes back to his place. Manette returns after twelve to the house of Lorry and it is evident that he has had another relapse. As soon he comes he asks for his bench and tools. Carton tells Lorry all that he has heard at the wine shop and expects him to have his horses ready the next day.

so that they may fly to England at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Carton asks Lorry to keep in his own possession not merely his own passport, but those for the Doctor and his daughter (which he has taken out from the doctor's case), and the one which allowed "Sydney Carton, advocate, English" to pass out.

CHAPTER XIII.

Darnay spends what he thinks to be his last evening in writing letters to Lucie, Manette and Lorry. At one o'clock the next day, the day fixed for his execution, Darnay is surprised to see Carton in his cell. Carton under the pretext of having brought a request from Lucie, asks Darnay to take off his boots and coat and to wear those of Carton. Darnay understands that Carton wants to send him out of the prison and, thinking his escape to be impossible, protests. Carton insists, saying that Darnay's escape is not contemplated, and he has to yield. Carton then asks Darnay to write to his dictation. While Darnay is writing, Carton holds his medicine close to his face. Darnay becomes gradually insensible and is stretched on the ground. Carton dresses himself quickly in the clothes the prisoner has laid aside, combs his hair and ties it with the ribbon the prisoner has worn. The unconscious figure is taken out as Carton by Barsad and is quietly conveyed to Lorry's lodgings. The appointed time comes and Carton is being taken to the place of execution. A young seamstress who has been with Darnay in La Force asks Carton to hold her with his hand while they go together to the place of execution, for that would give her more courage.

On examining him closely she discovers that he is a different man who is dying for Darnay, but Carton warns her not to cry out at her discovery by pressing her fingers and touching her lips.

At the same moment a coach drives up to the Barrier. The travelling papers are handed out. The examination is satisfactory and Dr. Manette, Lucie and her child, Lorry and Darnay (as the English advocate) leave Paris behind.

CHAPTER XIV.

Madame Defarge, The Vengeance and Jacques Three are holding a conference in the shed of the wood-sawyer:—Lucie and her child will be denounced by Madame Defarge. The wood-sawyer will swear that he has seen Lucie making signals outside the prison, there being a plot to rescue a prisoner. Madame Defarge will go to Lucie's house and will, certainly find her mourning for her husband, and it is a capital crime to mourn for and sympathise with a victim of the guillotine. Madame Defarge asks the Vengeance to go ahead of her to the place of execution and to keep a seat reserved for her. She herself goes towards Lucie's house.

Miss Pross and Jerry have been left behind to start a little later. This is done to avoid overloading Darnay's coach and to reduce to the utmost the time occupied in examining the passengers. Jerry and Miss Pross make up their mind to start from the Cathedral door at 3 o'clock to avoid suspicion and Jerry sets out to make the necessary arrangements. Miss Pross sees Madame Defarge coming. She finds the doors all open. Fearing

that she might suspect Lucie has escaped, Miss Pross at once closes the doors. Miss Pross is also determined to keep Madame Defarge there by force so that Lucie and her party may have enough time to escape. Madame Defarge asks her to open the doors, but she refuses. Then she calls out, and no one responding, opens three of the doors and finds the rooms in disorder. Her suspicions are roused and she tries to look in at the fourth door. But Miss Pross is stronger and holds her close by the waist. She tries to draw out her dagger, but as Miss Pross is holding her tight at the waist, she fails. Then she draws out a pistol from her breast but Miss Pross strikes at it and it goes. Madame Defarge falls lifeless and Miss Pross is deafened for life.

Miss Pross and Jerry are on their way out to London.

CHAPTER XV.

The fifty-two doomed prisoners for the day are carried in six tumbrils to the place of execution. Carton is sitting at the back of the third tumbril holding a girl's hand. He gently places her with her back to the guillotine. They kiss each other's lips. The girl meets her fate bravely and is followed by Carton. In after years, his name was held sacred by Darnay and Lucie and their descendants one of whom bore the name of Carton. If his thoughts at the last moment could have been recorded they would have been :—

“ It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.”

Mrs. Southcott—Joanna Southcote (1750–1814); religious monomaniac, who after being till middle life a devout methodist, began in about 1790, to proclaim herself a prophetess, and gained many converts.

Cock Lane Ghost—In 1762 London was agog with reports of spirit rappings heard in the house of one Parsons, of Cock Lane, Smithfield. Even Dr. Johnson seemed to believe in their supernatural origin. Eventually it was found that Parsons, in collusion with his daughter, had produced the sounds, and he was pilloried.

Deficient in originality—In imitation of the Cock Lane Ghost.

Earthly order of events—as against the spiritual ones rapped out by the so called Cock Lane Ghost.

More messages...America—The reference is to the Declaration of Independence by the Americans in 1776.

Sister of the shield and trident—Britain Britannia is represented with a shield in one hand and trident in the other.

Rolled with exceeding swiftness down hill—rought about ruin and misery.

Making paper money and spending it—The immediate cause of the French Revolution was a chronic deficit in finance

Humane achievements—Sarcastic, what is really meant is actions of inhuman cruelty.

Sentencing a youth . . . sixty years—This refers to an actual event. But the offence of the young man was more serious than Dickens admits



and sometimes they would not lend their ears even to the strongest arguments

Spring of hope—Hope imparts enthusiasm and buoyancy to an individual as the spring seems to impart to nature.

Winter of despair—Despair or utter hopelessness dejects a man as winter seems to deject nature

Some of its noisiest etc.—People considered it either as the best or as the worst period in history. Those who condemned it, spoke of this revolutionary period as the lowest stage of degradation, and those who praised it spoke of it as marking the dawn of the highest stage of human civilisation; some took it to be an unmingled evil which others looked upon it as dawning the happiest period in history.

The King with a large jaw...England—George III (1760–1820), and Charlotte Sophia. A large jaw is taken to be an indication of low intelligence.

A king with a large jaw...France—Louis XVI and Mari Antoinette.

Preserves—Places for the protection of animals for the purpose of sport and hunting.

Loaves and fishes—The allusion is to the miracle of the feeding of the people in the Bible. Here it means material and political gain.

Spiritual revelations...at that favoured period—There were a number of spiritual manifestations in religious movement. The tone is sarcastic, not serious.

CHAPTER II.

The *Story* narrated in the novel consists of two parts: (1) the events leading to Dr. Manette's imprisonment and his wife's death (2) the second part begins with the doctor's acquittal and ends with Sydney Carton's execution as Charles Darnay with a prophetic glimpse into the future. Though at first sight the novel seems to deal with the latter part, the first part is nevertheless as important as the latter one. Moreover the motives guiding several characters cannot be grasped nor can they be properly appreciated unless the first part of the story is understood in every detail. The character of Madame Defarge is an example exactly to the point. The fact that the author has allotted more space for the latter part and elaborated it by introducing characters and actions unnecessary for the development of the plot cannot and do not minimise the importance of and our interest in the first part of the story. And, but for the character of Sydney Carton, the real interest would have centred round the first part and would have rendered the whole book dry and dull.

The second part of the story begins with this chapter, and we meet Mr. Jarvis Lorry of Tellson's Bank, trustee of Dr. Manette's property, travelling by the Dover mail, and Jerry Cruncher having a hint at the latter's *honest trade*. This chapter also serves to intensify the sense of danger and mystery already awakened.

...*Each was hidden...of the body*—because they did not speak a single word; they had wrapped up their own bodies with clothes so that the other two did not know what the other was like or how he looked, and they judiciously kept silent, for to be forward in making acquaintances would make them liable to be suspected as a man gathering information for the robbers.

Posting house—a house where horses were kept for hire to travellers to ride to the next posting house.

The hearts of the passengers.....expectation—The passengers expected an attack and were holding their breath out of anxiety and fear. And with the passing of every second their anxiety and concern deepened, which made their pulses beat faster.

He's hoarser than suits me—His hoarse voice arouses a suspicion in my mind.

Nation—contraction for *damnation*.

The passengers were anxiously expecting Jerry and Lorry to turn out to be robbers and therefore pretended to have fallen asleep. They were ready to allow themselves to be robbed rather than risking their lives, because he who keeps awake runs the risk of being attacked first.

In this chapter we get a very clear and graphic picture of the hazards of long journey in those days. The picture though it originates a sense of mystery and fear in us is not without its humour. Dickens being a humorous writer by pre-eminence treats us with an innocent laugh or two here and there.

CHAPTER III

This chapter has nothing to do with the development of the plot. It only serves the purpose of heightening the reader's expectations.

Profound secret and mystery—We have absolutely no means of having a full knowledge of what other men are thinking. Everybody has his own ideas about things and has his own motives guiding his actions which no other man can fully grasp.

The leaves of this dear book—The secrets of the heart nearest to me.

Vainly—Because it is impossible.

Read it all—Have a complete knowledge of all the ideas and imaginings it contains.

This unfathomable water—The heart of my most beloved ones. The human mind is called *unfathomable water* because it is impossible that I shall ever be able to dive into all the workings of the heart.

Momentary lights glanced into it—Made the workings of the mind clear to us; gave us opportunity of inferring the thoughts and ideas of other minds.

Momentary lights—Actions which for their time being give us a clue to the innermost thoughts.

Buried treasure and other things submerged—The innermost thoughts, ideas and motives of a human being.

It was appointed—Destined.

Shut with a spring—Close suddenly and all at once, and without our intending it even.

For every and for ever—Become the dead return no more.

when I had read but a page—When had grasped only very little of what it contained. However

much may we try we can have only a very little glimpse into the workings of the heart which lies nearest to us.

Eternal frost—death

The light was playing on its surface—It was alive and there was opportunity for inferring the thoughts and ideas from its action and words.

Personality—That which distinguishes one person from another.

Inmost personality—thoughts and ideas which are peculiar to that individual alone.

The plain idea seems to be that however much a person may be intimate with me and however much may I try, I can never expect to acquire a complete knowledge of the inner workings of his heart. I may, now and then, have a glimpse into his heart but that will enable me to have only a partial knowledge of what goes in his mind.

In this passage, the human mind is compared to a book, our knowledge of it to the reading of the book, and death to the closing of the book with a spring. It is also compared to a sheet of water its thoughts and actions to the light playing on its surface, and death to an eternal frost.

It is the inevitable... life's mind—Every human heart has within itself thoughts and ideas which are bound to remain a mystery to others. Death serves to make this secret unalterably permanent and closes up every other chance of our having another glimpse into it.

Not alienated inheritance—Secrets of his mind.

Evincing—Making evident or clear beyond doubt.

Sinister expression—Dark and evil look.

Line of business—Body snatching He used to dig out graves and steal whatever he could get.

Took such shapes as arose out of the message—Jarvis Lorry's message "Recalled to life" perplexes Jerry whose guilty conscience begins to work on his mind and sets up illusions of ghosts and apparitions.

Fellow-inscrutables—Inexplicable to one another; each of them seemed a mystery to the other two.

Drafts were honoured—Accepted and paid when due.

This chapter gives us an insight into the character of Mr. Jarvis Lorry. He is a bachelor and confidential clerk to the Tellson's Bank. He has only two attachments in his life, one being the Bank where he is employed. Even during his journey, he dreams of the Bank, its transactions and its securities. As we shall see later on the well-being of the Bank is the most important thing for him and eclipses his love for the Manette family. His other attachment is his affection for the family of Dr. Manette. He dreams of Dr. Manette, of his rescue and is rather anxious to find him a happy man once more. He is one of the most disinterested-friends of the family, a friend and companion of Dr. Manette, a sincere well-wisher of Lucie. In this chapter we find him dreaming of the Bank and of Dr. Manette and whenever we will meet him again we will find him in connection with either of the two.

CHAPTER IV.

This chapter introduces the heroine, and indirectly hints at the first part of the story contained in this book. We shall find that she became an orphan when she was only two years old, but we

will have no clue as to how and where she was brought up. We are also introduced to Miss Pross, a semicomical, but very important character because it is through her that Dickens brings about what is known in literature as "poetic justice" and what the author himself calls "an act of divine justice".

Packet—(Originally a boat for carrying packet of state dispatches, hence a small mail-boat.

Concord—At that period rooms of an inn or hotel had names assigned to them instead of numbers as they have to day.

Although but one kind...came out of it—People who travelled by the mail were almost invariably heavily wrapped up from head to foot. And as the Concord was generally assigned to the mail passengers, all of them looked almost the same when they first entered the room. But when they came out in plain dress they could be easily distinguished.

By accident—Ironical,—really they were loitering out of curiosity.

Second-hand cares.....off and on—Second-hand clothes cannot be expected to fit the wearer smartly and are, generally speaking, a bit too loose so that they come off and come on very easily, sometimes even without the wearer intending it. Mr. Lorry of Tellson's Bank being an old bachelor cannot be expected to have cares and anxieties of his own; of course, being a confidential clerk in the Bank he was always busy with the worries of other people. But these had no permanent effect either on his mind or on his body, because they were not his own.

Piscatory—Relating to fishes.

A quantity of strolling about by night and looking seaward—The reference is to the smuggling of brandy, tea etc. which was very common in England in those days.

Small tradesmen.. large fortunes—Because they carried on smuggling which was their principal source of income

With an air of solid desperation—After the manner of a man who is in utter despair.

Privilege of filling up blank forms—Refers to the notorious *lettres de cachet*: sealed warrants issued by the French Kings upto the time of the Revolution, authorising the arrest of individuals who might be deemed dangerous to the State, and their detention in prison for an indefinite period without a trial.

Oblivion—Literally means forgetfulness. Here it means the dark cell of a prison whence he may never come out.

It might have been already tinged with grey—If she had been living in uncertainty whether his father is dead or alive.

Credentials — Certificates which can be used among strangers as warrants for credit or authority.

Grenadier wooden measure—*Grenadier Guards* were distinguished by wearing tall caps. Hence the expression means a very tall measure.

Stilton—A village in England.

This chapter is very important in-as-much-as it gives us an insight into the three of the most important characters viz., Lucie, the heorine, Mr. Lorry, and Miss Pross. It is also in this chapter that the author brings out the most remarkable characteristics of these three figures, leaving out scarcely any remarkable peculiarity for later events to bring into prominence (excepting, of course, Miss Pross's love for her brother Solomon).

As regards Lucie Manette, we get her early history so far as it is necessary for the later development of the plot; we also notice the most important trait in her character, her love for her father whom she has practically never seen and whom she knows to be dead. "I have been free. I have been happy, yet his ghost has never haunted me!" These are the words that she utters when she comes to realise that her father is alive and has been all these years a prisoner, and these words give us ample material to judge her feelings for her father—feelings, which will be found to be her most peculiar characteristic.

Mr. Lorry, as we find him in this chapter, is a gentleman of sixty, a bachelor, and a friend of Dr. Manette even before his imprisonment. It was Mr. Lorry who took charge of the baby Lucie, when her poor mother died of broken heart. In spite of his repeated statements to the contrary, he has a genuine affection for Lucie. "Feelings! I have no time for them, no chance of them. I pass my whole life, miss, in turning an immense pecuniary mangle" says Mr. Lorry, And yet every word that he utters, every pause that he makes, betray an undercurrent of pity, love and pride—pity for the doctor, his wife and the orphan now in such anxiety and distress, love for Lucie, his ward whom he has brought up all these years without allowing himself to be known, and pride that his ward has grown up to such a blooming, beautiful and happy girl. And we cannot but support Mr. Carton in what that reckless genius says referring to Mr. Lorry "If you knew what a conflict goes on in the business mind, when the business mind is divided between good-natured impulse and business appearances, you would be amused, Mr. Darnay."

In Miss Pross we find a wild looking woman, all of a red colour: "I really think this must be a man!" This is the idea that strikes Mr. Lorry as she sends him flying against the wall by laying a hand on his chest. And it is her physical strength that is responsible for the end that met Madame Defarge. But within that strong body, there lies a very soft heart, at least so far as Lucie and Solomon are concerned.

CHAPTER V.

In this chapter we have the first glimpse into the wine shop of St. Antoine with its proprietor Monsieur Defarge and his wife the terrible madame Defarge. It is also for the first time that we meet Dr. Manette almost a wreck but still alive, the Jacques, who play so important a part in the story of the Revolution and Gaspard, a typical revolutionary. This is really a very powerful chapter, full of significance and omens which makes this story a very high-strung one.

The Wine-shop—why does Dickens introduce this wine shop? It is because he wanted to follow history as closely as possible without marring its value as a piece of fiction. "We must always remember, in order to understand the tremendous pace at which the Revolution developed, that the year 1789 marks an almost unparalleled agitation of public opinion. Leading symptoms of this agitation were the innumerable pamphlets and newspapers which accompanied the events of the day with explanatory comment, but a still more striking witness of the exaltation of men's minds was offered by the clubs. Clubs for consultation and debate became the great demand of the hour; they arose spontaneously in all quarters, in fact every coffee-house acquired through the passion of its frequenters, the character of a political association. Of all these unions the Jacobins soon won the most influential position. Beginning moderately enough, they offered a meeting-point for the constitutional and educated elements, and rapidly spread in num-

so that it could be fairly claimed by the indignant people that the principle of taxation which obtained in their own country was to relieve those who did not need relief, and to burden those who were already overburdened.

The commoners or members of the Third Estate, who were shut out from the places of authority reserved to the first two estates of the realm, were reduced to finding an outlet for their energy in the field of business enterprise or else in literature.

They succeeded in piling up wealth both in Paris and in the cities of the provinces, until their resources constantly increased through thrift and hard work, far exceeded those of the nobility, who concerned themselves only with elegantly spending what they had and what they could borrow. Thus the Third Estate had long been better off than the nobility; and now they proceeded to surpass the nobility in other respects, for increase of wealth had brought increase of leisure, of the desire and power to learn and grow.

But the case was different with the vast majority of French subjects, who are often called the Fourth Estate, and who embraced the two utterly wretched classes of the urban proletariat and the peasants. The proletariat was composed of the artisans and day-labourers, and was owing to the fact that the middle class controlled the commercial and industrial situation by means of close corporations called guilds, completely under the heel of its richest fellow-citizens. But still worse off than the working people were the

peasants, for their obligations exceeded all justice and reason. The lord of the manor exacted rents from them, the Church levied tithes, and the king collected taxes almost at will. The result was that the peasants did not have enough left over from their toil to live on. And if these regular taxes slid by chance, leave any thing in their hands, that little was constantly jeopardised by certain remaining feudal obligations. Thus the lord of the land had the sole right to hunt, and the peasant was forbidden to erect fences to shut out the games from his field, If the cavalcade from the chateau dashed over the young wheat in spring, the peasant could do nothing but look on at the ruin of his year, hold his peace, and starve. (Other vexations feudal dues were the compulsory mending of roads, bridge-tolls, and the obligation to grind corn in the mill of the lord, and bake bread in his oven).—Adapted from Thatcher and schwill's. A general History of Europe;

Implacable-looking—his eyes betrayed his firm determination.

What the devil...galley there? — Monseieur Defarge means to say "what kind of place is this for you to be found in?" St. Antoine being a wretched and vicious district of Paris, Defarge is rather surprised to find Mr. Lorry and Lucie (whom did not know at time) in such a place.

Triumvirate—A party of three men.

Jacques—Adapted from *Jacques Bonhomme* (Good-man Jack) the a name assumed by the leader of the Peasant revolt in France in 1358

against the Privileged classes. Hence the name has special significance here. The name was also the password of a French secret society which, as some believe, organised the French Revolution of 1789.

Intangible—not perceptible to touch. The air it self was polluted owing to decomposition of the refuse.

Languishing good air — air gradually becoming polluted.

Notre-Dame The great gothic Cathedral of Paris. This was founded in the 12th century and suffered greatly during the Revolution. It was thoroughly restored in the 19th century.

Wholesome aspiration — a desire towards prosperity.

In this Chapter we have got a vivid picture of St Antoine and its population, and no description can be more picturesque and more impressive. We should keep in mind that the essential feature of the Revolution was the mob-rule. And this mob consisted of the labourers and the peasants. In this graphic description of St. Antoine, we get a picture of the conditions of the working classes. As to the condition of the peasants we shall get one in Bk. III ch. x, and some in Bk II. ch. VIII.

As has been already said, monsieur Defarge and Madame Defarge are two of the most important characters in the novel. In monsieur Defarge we find a bull-necked martial looking man of thirty. He is good humoured looking on the whole, but implacable-looking too, evidently a man of a strong resolu-

tion and a set purpose. But he possesses a very sympathetic heart. He sympathises with the misery and poverty reigning around and sympathises with the master whom he once served. He himself is not in a miserable state but his sympathetic heart is bent upon revenge, and we find him the ringleader of two St. Antoine revolutionaries.

But Madame Defarge is a woman of strong features, a steady face, and a great composure of manner, with a watchful eye that seldom seems to look at any thing. And it is she who controls monsieur Defarge, and guides him on his path of vengeance. (We will meet her on many occasions which will reveal her peculiarities and the most remarkable traits of her character).

If we had any doubt as to Mr. Lorry's affection for the manette family and his attempt to suppress any expression of it, that doubt is at once removed when we find him taking Lucie to meet Dr. Manette. "A—a business, business!" he urged, *with a moisture that was not of his business shining on his cheek*. "Come in come in!" He is also offended at Defarge's making a show of Dr. Manette.

"The best novel, surely, like the best play, is that in which inner character and outward action are developed simultaneously; in which growth of mind and heart and will are expressed through tangible and striking scene. They allow us to watch the growth or the decay of soul even while we are fascinated by a spectacle" (Bliss Perry) Dickens himself wanted to make this *Tale of Two Cities* his best novel. "I set myself," says he, "the little task of making a picturesque story, rising in every chapter with characters true to nature, but whom the story itself should express more than they should express themselves by dialogues. I have fancied a story of incident might be written, in place

of the bestiality that is written under that pretence, pounding the characters out in its own mortar, and beating their own interests out of them."

In order to understand how far Dickens is successful in fulfilling the task he set before himself, the student should, before he proceeds further, take a review of the chief characters, so far as they have been developed. The next book of the novel will lead us through a series of "adventures, memoirs, collections of scenes" with 'an action'



BOOK II

This part is named "The Golden Thread" (most probably in imitation of Scott's "the silver link, the silken tie") and arouses in us no sense of mystery or fear but an expectation of a happy accident the "thread" indicating a bond. And, as we shall see, that it will bind not two but several.

We should also note that originally the novel was not titled "A Tale of Two Cities," but several names were tried and one of them was "The Thread of Gold." The name was significant and suited the story so appropriately that Dickens could not reject it altogether.

CHAPTER I

In this novel Dickens has followed what has been called "the French art of telling a story succinctly", and "five years" are allowed to elapse since the occurrence of the events narrated in Book I. It is not that nothing which is important for the purposes of the story has taken place during the period but that something *very* important took place on board the ship carrying Lucie and Dr. Manette to England. Dickens avoids repetition by not mentioning it before.

It has been said of Dickens' novel "Public wrongs and shames, as well as undesirable traits of character were held up to scorn in his books." And though in this novel we do not find a systematic attack upon any of the social abuses of the period, we will come across now and then flings at

Jerry Cruncher is the only humorous character in the novel, and is an example of Dickens' fondness for caricature. Jerry is the odd-job man at Tellson's bank. His chief peculiarity lies in the fact that though he is a body snatcher he calls himself an "honest trades man." His wife's piety irritates him and he throws boots at her when he finds her praying. But this irritability is due to his guilty conscience, and he believes that his wife's prayers will have the effect of rendering his labour at his "honest trade futile". He is of opinion that his wife prays so that "the bread-and-butter may be snatched out of the mouth of her only child." At the breakfast table he resents Mrs Cruncher's saying grace. "Don't do it" says he "I ain't going to be blest out of house and home. I won't have my wittles blest off my table." But it has been said that "*A Tale of Two Cities*" entirely lacks the element of real humour so predominant in others—for one cannot laugh very heartily or very often at Jerry and Miss Pross.

CHAPTER II.

This chapter introduces the two heroes of the book, Charles Darnay, the conventional centre of sentimental interest, and Sydney Carton, the great character for whom the book is famous, and who is quietly introduced as "another wigged gentleman with his hands in his pockets whose whole attention seemed to be concentrated on the ceiling". It is only gradually that Carton develops into one of the prominent figures in the story. The reader should note carefully the traits in his character as they are unfolded by the author" — *A Tale of Two Cities* in Macmillan's Pocket American and English Classics

Old Bailey — was for many centuries the central Criminal Court of London. It has now been replaced by a new Court, built on the site of the famous Newgate Prison, and is often referred to as the "New Old Bailey."

Quartering—The body of a man executed for treason was cut into pieces and the parts were exhibited in various cities as a warning to others.

Tyburn — Previous to 1783 it was the scene of public executions.

Newgate — Executions were transferred to Newgate in 1783. We should note that the last public hanging was in 1868, and in 1902 Newgate was pulled down.

Altogether the Old Bailey...was wrong — It is not that that the proposition "whatever is is right" implied or logically contained the truth of the proposition 'Nothing that ever was, was wrong', but that the latter one came in as a 'consequence'. Not only did society object to putting an end to what was wrong, but also it began object to bringing to about what was good—apart from any question of reforms.

Bedlam—The famous lunatic asylum of London, formerly one of the "sights" with regular admission fees.

Showing the soul to be stronger than the sun—the sun had made his face brown but still a paleness was clearly visible on it as a result of his dangerous situation.

Ogerish—an ogre was a man-eating giant of the fairy tales.

This chapter is important in as much as it illustrates what is known as one of the chief characteristics of Dickens as a writer, that is, "the specific social purpose with which he was almost always inspired, for in nearly all his novels he sets out to attack some particular abuse or abuses and to advocate some much needed reform." (Hudson).

Here too, as in the preceding chapter he attacks the conservatism of the period. "Alltogether, Old Bailey, at that date, was a choice illustration of the precept, that what ever is is right; an apbrisan that woul' be as final as it is lazy, did it not include the troublesome consequence that nothing that ever was, was wrong.

"It's hard in the law to spile a man. I think. It's hard enough to kill him but it's very hard to spile him, Sir."

"But, the gaol was a vile place, in which most kinds of debauchery and villainy were praotised, and where dire diseases were bred."

"For, people then paid to see the play at the old Bailey, just as they paid to see the play in Bedlam."

"Oh ! they" find him guilty. Don't you be afraid of that."

The sort of interest with which this man was stared and breathed at, was not a sort that elevated humanity. Had he stood in peril of a horrible sentence—had there been a chance of any of its savage details being spared by so much would he have last in his fascination. The form that was to be doomed to be so shamefully mangled, was the sight, immortal creature that was to be so butchered, yielded the sensation. Whatever gloss the various spectators put upon the interest, according to their several arts and powers of self-deceit, the interest was, at the root of it ogarish."

These passages together with his condemnation of the criminal law and its administration, his description of the attitude of the crowd of spectators completely, justify

Hudson when he says: "Dickens belongs entirely to the humanitarian movement of the Victorian age, and is indeed by far its most important representative in literature. By his large and generous sympathy with "the complaining millions of men," by his hearty scorn of religious hypocrisy, and by his noble champion-ship of the cause of the poor, the oppressed, he exercised an influence for good the value of which it would be impossible to exaggerate." (see also Book I chapter I & V).

As a contrast to the heartlessness of the spectators, the author gives us a picture of Lucie Manette (who appears as a witness against Darnay) which is enough to convince us of the softness of her heart and her generous sympathy; "She had drawn close to him (Dr.) in her dread of the scene, and in her pity for the prisoner. Her forehead had been strikingly expressive of an engrossing terror and compassion that saw nothing but the peril of the accused. This had been so very noticeable, so very powerfully and naturally shown, that starkers who had no pity for him were touched by her"

As regards Carton and Darnay we get nothing particular in this chapter except a hint at Carton's peculiar carelessness or rather, indifference towards everything: "Everybody present, *except the one rigged gentleman who looked at the ceiling*, stared at him (Darnay)).

This chapter unfolds a remarkable trait of character in Jerry his sympathetic heart could not help denouncing "quartering." "It is hard in the law to spile a man. I think. It's hard enough to kill him, but it is very hard to spile him, Sir".

CHAPTER III.

This chapter gives us a vivid picture of the trial. It introduces several new characters in the story, namely, Stryver, the counsel for defence and Barsad, a spy who plays a not unimportant part in the sequel. As we shall see later on that but for :

this trial. Sydney Carton, Barsad, Charles Darnay and Lucie manette would not have been brought together nor could Carton have a chance of knowing that Barsad acts as a spy for the aristocratic Government of England—how this knowledge helped Carton in fulfilling his promise and thereby to realise his heart's keenest desire, we will see in the sequel. Stryver alone, though a very prominent figure, is of secondary importance so far as the development of the plot is concerned.

The charge against Charles Darnay was that he had helped the French Government with information regarding English troops, that it was his opinion that England ought to be held responsible for the war of American Independence & that perhaps George Washington might gain as great a name in history as George the Third of England.

(THE WAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE)

* In the year 1765 the British Parliament levied a tax upon the American colonies, called the Stamp act. When it became known that the tax aroused discontent, it was wisely withdrawn, but at the same time the principle was asserted and proclaimed that the British Parliament had the right to tax the colonies. As the Americans would not accept this point of view, friction grew apace and soon led to mob violence. Townshend imposed some unpopular taxes, the British ministry resorted to military force, and the answer of the Americans to this measure was the resolution to revolt (Declaration of Independence 1776). In 1778 the colonists, through their agent, Benjamin Franklin, made an alliance with France, and from this time on the English were hard pressed by land and by sea. Finally, the surrender of Yorktown (1781) to the American hero of the

war, George Washington disposed the English to peace. In the peace of Versailles (1763) England made France a few unimportant colonial concessions, but the really memorable feature of the peace was the recognition of the independence of the American colonies.—*Thatcher and Schmitt*.

In this chapter an episode is brought to light which prove to be of great importance in the development of the plot. From Miss Manette's evidence we gather that after Dr. Manette's release, on her way to England with Mr. Lorry, she met Darnay on board the packet-ship. When Darnay came on board, he noticed that the doctor was much fatigued and in a very weak state of health. Darnay asked permission to help Lucie and did everything to keep Dr. Manette comfortable. That was how they became familiar to each other.

That Dickens refrained from mentioning this little episode at the time it took place may be owing to his intention to avoid repetition. But it seems that a first-hand narration of this little episode might have thrown more light on the character both of Lucie and of Darnay, which, we must admit, remain colourless to the end. This is one of the reasons why we think that there is much truth in the statement that the distinctive merit of the novel "is less in any of its conception of character, even Carton's, than as a specimen of Dickens' power of story-telling."

This chapter and the next two bring out the most remarkable features in Mr. Carton's character, and incidentally that of Mr. Stryver. Sydney Carton, advocate, is introduced as "another wigged gentleman with his hands in

his pockets, whose whole attention seemed to be concentrated on the ceiling of the Court". But inspite of his apparent indifference he plays the most important part in deciding the case. He observes a close resemblance between himself and Charles Darnay and this confuses the witness who undertakes to identify Darnay. "But at the time when Darnay's fate was trembling in the balance, when his fate was wavering between the most terrible death and a discharge, when the whole crowd including the judge himself was feeling feverish and anxiously waiting for the verdict of the jury, Sydney Carton, who had unsettled the certainty, sat leaning back, with his torn gown half off him, his untidy wig put on just as it had happened to light on his head after its removal, his hands in his pockets, and his eyes on the ceiling as they had been all day. Something especially reckless in his demeanour gave him a disreputable look."

But this trial, when Judged in the light of subsequent events must be considered as a turning point in Carton's character. We are led to suspect, that it was Lucie's feelings for Darnay, her beauty and womanly gifts that lifted Carton, for the time being at least, out of his reckless indifference and brought out his qualities of head and heart — his keen power of observation and his disinterested sympathy for Darnay. His eagerness to be of some service to Lucie and to Darnay ought to be taken to be his homage to pure love the existence of which nobody else had even the suspicion of.

CHAPTERS IV AND V.

These two chapters unimportant as they are so far as the *movement* of the story is concerned, are introduced to bring Carton's character into bolder relief. And this has been done, we must admit, inspite of Dickens' statement, (see notes under Book I chapter V), mainly by means of dialogues — in chapter IV between Carton and Darnay and in chapter V between Carton and Stryver.

In chapter IV we find everybody congratulating Darnay on his release—Mr. Darnay thanking Stryver for having laid him under an obligation for life. But Carton, recklessly indifferent Carton, to whom the whole credit ought to belong, is the person who has not joined the group or interchanged a word with any one but has been leaning against the wall where its shadows are darkest, and silently stroll out after the rest, and looks on until the coach drives away. Nobody made any acknowledgment of Mr. Carton's part in the day's proceedings, nobody knew of it. Nor does he care for it, because he is the old Sydney Carton of Old Shrewsbury school who did exercises for other boys and seldom did his own. And as in school so in profession. He helps Stryver to get his cases prepared, and although he does not care to work for himself he works for Stryver, he is Stryver's great ally. Stryver never had a case in hand any where, but Carton is there.

"As to me", says he to Darnay, "the greatest desire I have, is to forget that I belong to it (world). It has no good in it for me—except wine like this—nor I for it"

"I am a disappointed drudge, Sir." he says later on, "I care for no man on earth, and no man on earth cares for me"

He is a man of good abilities and good emotions, incapable of their directed exercise, incapable of his own help and his own happiness, sensible of the blight on him, and resigning himself to let it eat him away.

But Miss Manette brings on a change in him, a curious change. She awakens him, as it were, out of a sleep. But not even she can rouse him from his drowsiness. He observes a resemblance

between himself and Darnay, stands up before the Court—the resemblance is remarkable. He goes and takes his seat—and people wonder that there is any resemblance at all! Carton, as he might been not as he is, resembled Darnay, and Miss Manette, her beauty and her sympathetic heart, for a moment made Carton feel what he might have been. He is jealous of Darnay, he hates Darnay. “That’s a fair young lady to be pitied by and wept for by! How does it feel? Is it worth being tried, for one’s life to be the object of such sympathy and compassion Mr. Darnay?” But he is conscious of his failings and seems to be more vexed with himself than with Darnay when he says “Don’t let your sober face elate you, however you don’t know what it may come to.” Yet Luise has brought on a change, a self consciousness, at least, of the powers within him “Change places with him (Darnay)” he asks himself, “and would you have been looked at by those blue eyes as he was, and commiserated by that agitated face as he was?” Waste forces within him, and a desert all around, Carton that night stood still, on his way across a silent terrace, and saw for a moment, lying in the wilderness before him, a mirage of honourable ambition, self denial, and perseverance. In the fair city of this vision, there were airy galleries from which the loves and graces looked down upon him. garden from which the fruits of life hung ripening, waters of hope that sparkled in his sight. A moment and it was gone.

But Carton will not betray his feelings for Lucie to Stryver. He denies that she is beautiful

and with apparent contempt calls her "a golden haired doll." He also denies that he sympathised with and was quick to see what happened to her.

As a sort of contrast to Sydney Carton we have his so-called friend and old school-fellow Stryver, Darnay's counsel in the treason case. He has not that quick perception, that power of looking into the heart of things, that intelligence which Carton possesses but he is free from any drawback of delicacy, had a pushing way of shouldering himself (physically and morally) into companies and conversations, that argued well for his shouldering his way up in life. He appropriates the credit of getting Darny acquitted and says, "I have done my best for you, Mr. Darnay; and my best is as good as another's, I believe." But while Mr. Stryver was a glib man and an unscrupulous, and a ready and a bold he had not that faculty of extracting the essence from a heap of statements, which is among the most striking and necessary of the advocate's accomplishments. But, a remarkable improvement came upon him as to this because he paid Sydney Carton who had a special talent for the task to do the work for him. Thus however late did Stryver sit carousing with Sydney Carton, he always had his points at his fingers ends in the morning. Thus Stryver is a lion and Carton is his jackal.

Bacchanalian propensities—Bacches was Greek god of wine. Hence the expression means "drinking habit".

Pith and marrow —The essential substance.

Hilary term and-Michaelmas—Two of the four three-week terms during which English law-courts held sessions.

Although Sydney Carton...humble capacity—The jackal of the story lured other animals for the

"When I have yielded myself to it (fancy of hearing incessant footsteps)" says Lucie to Darnay, "I have been alone, and then I have imagined them the footsteps of the people who are to come into my life, and my father's."

"I take them into mine", said Carton, "I ask no questions and make no stipulations. There is a great crowd bearing down upon us, Miss Manette and I see them—by the Lightning."

CHAPTERS VII-IX.

These three chapters, though at the first reading may be taken as an interruptions in the narrative, are really closely related to the rest of the story as will appear in the sequel.

Monseigneur—My lord, a French title given to persons of high rank. Here, the personification of the French aristocracy. *Holiest of Holiest*—The reference is to the Holy of Holies—the inner and most sacred part of the Jewish temple, where only the high priest entered.

Escutcheon—A coat of arms. Here it stands for "family prestige."

Happy Stuart who sold it—Charles II of England secretly sold to Louis XIV of France, his former allegiance and submission in order to procure money for his extravagance.

The reference is to the splendour and distractions the Englishman of the Restoration threw himself greedily upon. Profligacy became

fashion of the day, and Charles, because he satisfied the contemporary ideal in that he was corrupt, witty and amiable, assumed the position of a popular hero.

Farmer General — A revenue officer who bought from the Government the privilege of collecting the taxes of a district, the taxes were said to be "farmed out" to him. Every thing over and above the stipulated amount of taxes went into his own pocket.

Gorgon's head—Medusa the Gorgon of Greek mythology. Whoever looked at her face was turned into stone. She was killed by Perseus.

These three chapters depict the state of the French society with special reference to the aristocracy, narrate an incident terrible and pathetic at the same time, and disclose the identity of Charles Darnay with a glimpse into his character. We should also note the constant reference to Madame Defarge's knitting in chapter VII.

The Marquis of Evremonde on his way to the Chateau from Paris was driving through St. Antoine. Lisman was driving as if he was charging an enemy, and the furious recklessness of the man brought no check into the face or to the lips of the master. On the contrary, he rather seemed to enjoy the sight of the common people dispersing before his horses and often barely escaping from being run down. The carriage was dashing through the streets and vept round corners with women screaming before and men clutching each other and clutching their children out of the way. At last, swinging at a street corner by a fountain, one of its wheels

came to a sickening little jolt, and there was a loud cry from a number of voices, and the horses reared and plunged—the carriage running over a child killed it on the spot. The father of the child (Gaspard, as we shall see later on) was overwhelmed with grief. But Defarge came and consoled him—not to allay his grief but to kindle the spirit of revenge in him. The death of the child did not move the Marquis in the least—he was rather anxious for his horses. He threw a piece of gold to the bereaved father and another to Defarge for his trouble, but when the carriage began to move the latter flung the coin into it.

The father of the child followed the carriage to the chateau and at the dead of night when everything was quiet and asleep he managed to enter the bedroom of the Marquis and stabbed him to death. And round the hilt of the knife was a frill of paper, on which was scrawled: "Drive him fast to his tomb. This, from Jacques."

[This incident has a far reaching influence. The knife apparently came from Defarge, who instigated the murder not only as a sort of revenge which Gaspard naturally longed for but also to avenge the wrong which, as we shall discover later on, was done to Dr. Manette by the Marquis of Evremonde's father. Gaspard will also be hanged for the murder. And Defarge will then think it to be his duty to avenge Gaspard's death. And he will, under the spur of the moment, take the vow of exterminating the Evremonde family—Charles Darnay, we must note is the sole surviving member of the family.]

Charles Darnay as revealed in chapter IX is a great liberal and kind hearted gentleman who is ashamed of the traditions of his family and his class. "There is not," says he "a face I can look at, in all this country round about us, which looks at me with any deference, on it but the dark deference of fear and slavery." He really feels for the miserable people who have been wrung to the last point of endurance. He renounces all claims to the property and is ready to work for his livelihood. The property has for him no attractions. "To the eye it is fair enough, here; but seen in its integrity, under the sky, and by the day light, it is a crumbling tower of waste, mismanagement, extortion, debt, mortgage, oppression, hunger, nakedness, and suffering". It may be said that Darnay should not have given up his claims to the property; he should have rather tried, on his coming to estate, to devote himself to the welfare of his tenants. And he too, has that very thing in his mind while he feels instinctively that it is not to be. "It is not for me," says he, "there is a curse on it and all this land."

But how is it that Darnay becomes what we find him to be? Born of a father who was heartless and haughty, and in a family which looked upon repression as the only lasting philosophy and the fear and slavery of its tenants as a compliment to the grandeur of the family, merited by the manner in which the family has sustained its grandeur, Darnay too inherited the family characteristics-but these characteristics had quite a novel expression, the modifications coming from

Charles Darnay's mother. If the family was haughty, does not Darnay too betray a haughty temper in renouncing all his claims to the estate and making up his mind to earn his own living? If his family detested the poor, he detested the rich, if his family hated the labouring class, he hated those who did not labour, if his family felt for the prestige of the family, he felt for the heartlessness and notoriety of the family.

It is not that he does not love his family, it is not that he does not love France, but he hated the system. And this hatred is an inheritance from his mother, a mother whom he dearly loved and admired and even now adores the memory of. His case is peculiar and he does not know what to do. "I am", says he, "bound to a system that is frightful to me, responsible for it, but powerless in it; seeking to execute the last request of my dear mother's lips, and obey the last look of my mother's eyes, which implored me to have mercy and to redress, and tortured by seeking assistance and power in vain."

We should note that Darnay has nothing remarkable in his character beyond what has been brought out in this chapter. He does not seem to be capable of that amount of selflessness as Sydney Carton will be found to be, nor has he that force and go-ahead tendency in his temperament that Stryver possesses. He is a hero of whom we cannot and do not expect anything, he has, in fact, no potentiality in him, and as such does not arouse any expectation so essentially necessary for any work of fiction to be interesting.

It has been said that Dickens' picture of the French aristocracy is not historically correct. The picture of the Marquis that has been drawn does not belong to the period immediately preceding the Revolution—it belongs to an earlier period. The privileged classes did not, at the time of the Revolution cling to their feudal rights and privileges. On the contrary, on August 4, 1789, the nobility and clergy, in an access of magnanimity, renounced voluntarily their feudal rights and demanded that they should be admitted into the great body of French citizens on a basis of equality. It was not that Dickens was not aware of the formal surrender of feudal rights on the part of the privileged classes, but that he drew this picture consciously and with a purpose. "With the slung of the new philosophy on the one side, it was surely not unreasonable or unallowable, on the other, to suppose a nobleman wedded to the old cruel ideas and representing the time going out as his nephew representing the time coming in." This is how Dickens defends his picture. But it remains certain that we cannot accept the Marquis to be a typical nobleman of the period but as an isolated instance of what a noble had been in the days gone by.

CHAPTER X.

This chapter unfolds Dr. Manette's character so far as his affection for Lucie is concerned; Though we find Lucie to be the topic of conversation between the doctor, and Darnay, we are not

at all impressed by Darnay's avowal of love for Lucie, and upto this we have found nothing in Darnay's conduct which may lead us to infer his sentiment towards Lucie. In this chapter, too, it is not Darnay's love but it is the doctor's affection for and sense of duty towards his daughter that impresses us.

In order to appreciate Dr. Manette's affection for Lucie and the motive that led him to prevent Darnay from disclosing his identity until the day of the marriage, we should recollect the apparently petty but significant incident related in Book II. chapter IV. There we have found Dr. Manette, Lucie, Mr Lorry, Stryver and Darnay assembled together immediately following Darnay's acquittal. "His (Dr Manette's) face had become frozen, as it were, in a curious look at Darnay: an intent look, deepening into a frown of dislike and distrust not even unmingled with fear. With this strange expression on him his thoughts had wandered away." What was it due to? Was it an instinct or an Evremonde-likeness on Darnay's face? Whatever it might have been the fact remains that Dr. Manette did not like Darnay at the time and we cannot but admire his power of self control when we find him casting away his personal likes and dislikes and allowing Darnay to court Lucie. He promises, moreover, when the time comes, to bear testimony to Darnay's love. And at the time he gives his word of promise Dr. Manette has a shrewd suspicion that Darnay is an Evremonde, but he says to Darnay "If she should tell me that you are essential to her perfect happiness I will give her

to you. If there were—Charles Darnay, if there were any fancies, any reasons, any apprehensions, any thing whatsoever, new or old, against the man she really loved—the direct responsibility there of not lying on his head they should all be obliterated for her sake. She is every thing to me; more to me than suffering, more to me than wrong—well! This is idle talk."

This chapter is headed "Two Promises." What are those promises: (1) Dr. Manette's promise to bear testimony to Darnay's love when the time comes (2) Darnay's promise not to disclose his own identity till Dr. Manette asks him to do. "I'll me when I ask you, not now. If your suit should prosper, if Lucie should love you, your shall tell me on your marriage morning. Do you promise?"

CHAPTERS ~~IX~~-XIII

These three Chapters taken together serve to unfold Sydney Carton's character especially his admiration and love for Lucie—the purest form of the sentiment man is capable of. As a contrast the author informs us of the motives prompting Stryver to marry Lucie and of the mean attitude that he assumes when he is convinced that she will not accept him. It should be remembered that Stryver is not at all essential to the movement of the story—he has been introduced simply to set off Sydney Carton's character.

Haughty and self-confident as Stryver is, he intends to marry Lucie not because he loves her

but simply because he desires a change from the sort of life he leads, and he chooses *Lucie* simply because, as he says, "Miss Manette will tell in my station, and will do me credit." "She is a charming creature," he adds, "and I have made up my mind to please myself. On the whole, I think I can afford to please myself. She will have in me a man already pretty well off, and a rapidly rising man, and a man of some distinction; it is a piece of good fortune for her, but she is worthy of good fortune." And judging from the worldly standpoint—the only standpoint that really counts with him—he has no doubt of being accepted by *Lucie*—he is rather convinced that *Lucie* should think herself lucky in having an offer from him. But he is a bit taken aback when informed by Mr. Lorry of his not being acceptable to *Lucie* and calls her a 'mincing Fool.' Later on when Mr. Lorry informs Stryver that he has absolutely no chance, the latter, in order to regain his lost prestige, makes a statement which contains rather serious allegations against *Lucie's* conduct.

His treatment towards Carton is more of a patron than of a friend. He takes advantage of Carton's failings to secure his own success, and is always crying him down and boasting of his own superiority. This, he probably thinks, will serve to keep down Carton whose intelligence and ability as a lawyer are of a far superior quality to those of his own. "Your manners", says he to Carton, "have been of a hang-dog kind; that upon my life and soul; I have been ashamed of you, Sydney."

In Sydney Carton we have a man whose rough and sullen exterior serves to conceal underneath a great heart and a superior intelligence. When he cares to talk, he talks well, but the cloud of caring for nothing, which overshadows him with its fatal darkness, is rarely pierced by the light within him. But he is not indifferent towards life—he *does* care something for the streets that surround the house and for the senseless stones that make the pavements. Many a night he sadly and unhappily wandered there, when wine has brought no transitory gladness to him, many dreary daybreak reveals his solitary figure lingering there when perhaps the quiet time brings some sense of better things, else forgotten and unattainable, into his mind.

He gives vent to his feelings when he meets Lucie alone and conceals nothing from her. His admiration for her, the changes she has wrought in him, his own state of degradation—he explains to her but not with the intention of winning her love: "I wish you to know that you have been the last dream of my soul. In my degradation I have not been so degraded but that the sight of you has stirred my old shadows that I thought had died out of me. Since I knew you, I have been troubled by a remorse that I thought would never reproach me again, and have heard whispers from old voices impelling me upward, that I thought were silent for ever. I have had unformed ideas of striving afresh, beginning anew, shaking off sloth and sensuality, and fighting out the abandoned fight. A dream, all a dream, that

ends in nothing, and leaves the sleeper where he lay down, but I wish you to know that you inspired it."

✓ We cannot but admire his consideration for others and his spirit of self sacrifice when we hear him saying to Lucie "If it had been possible, Miss Manette, that you could have returned the love of the man you see before you self-flung away, wasted, drunken poor creature of misuse, as you know him to be, he would have been conscious this day and hour, in spite of his happiness, that he would bring you to misery, bring you to repentance, blight you, disgrace you, pull you down with him. I know very well that you can have no tenderness for me; I ask for none: I am even thankful that it cannot be. My last supplication of all," he adds, "is this; and with it I will relieve you of a visitor with whom I well know you have nothing in unison, and between whom and you there is an impassable space. It is useless to say it, I know, but it rises out of my soul. For you, and for any dear to you, I would do any thing. If my career were of that better kind that there was any opportunity or capacity of sacrifice in it, I would embrace any sacrifice for you and for those dear to you. Try to hold me in your mind, at some quiet times, as ardent and sincere in this one thing. The time will come, the time will not be long in coming, when new ties will be formed about you—ties that will bind you yet more tenderly and strongly to the home you adorn—the dearest ties that will ever race and gladden you. O Miss Manette, when

the little picture of a happy father's face looks up in yours, when you see your own bright beauty springing up anew at your feet, think now and then that *there is a man who would give his life to keep a life you love beside you !*"

CHAPTER XIV.

" This chapter is important because it illustrates one of the peculiar characteristics of Dickens as a writer. We should note in this connection that Dickens' father was too poor and improvident to educate him and when a boy of ten years only Dickens was compelled to earn his own living by pasting labels in a London warehouse. And it was at this time that his bitter education in the streets of London gave him priceless literary capital in the opportunities for the exercise of those marvellous powers of observation which subsequently made him famous as the master portrayer of lower and middle-class life and character. He never ceased accumulating that wealth of incident and those studies in types and manners which make his pages so perennially rich in living human interest." It is probably owing to this fact that Dickens occasionally falls into the error of vulgarity. Taste is something that can never be acquired; either a man has it or has it not, Dickens certainly did not possess it, and it is probably a good thing for us that he did not. A Dickens brought up with care, duly drilled in the etiquette which is supposed to constitute good form, and

mellowed by the traditional spirit of a great university, might still have been a great author, but he would not have been the Dickens we know."

"He would, no doubt, have written better English, but he would have written worse books. He certainly would not have chosen the themes from the most sordid and tragic annals of great cities. As it was, the one school Dickens knew was the London streets...He had, as we have seen a preference for the seamy and sordid side of life; it was that he knew best. He fails when he tries to paint a prosperous merchant, he fails still more egregiously when he tries to paint a lord; but his picture of the reckless hang dog Carton, his St. Antoine mod, his description of Jerry Cruncher's mode of life, his London crowd—are all perfect. They are mostly vulgar creatures, and now and then they are depicted with a vulgar touch.

"Here is a writer," says Mr. Frederick Harrison, "who is realistic if ever any writer was in the sense of having closely observed the lowest strata of city life, who has drawn the most miserable out-casts, the most abandoned men and women in the dregs of society. who has invented many dreadful scenes of passions, lust, seduction, and debauchery, and in forty works and more you will not find a page which a mother need withhold from his grown daughter".

[It should be noted that the remarks do not necessarily hold good of this chapter only—the student can easily find out illustrations which are scattered all over the book]

CHAPTER XV

In revealing the true character of the wine-shop at St. Antoine and the decision arrived at the secret meeting of the Jacqueses to *exterminate* the race of the Marquis the author prepares us for the crisis that is coming on in the lives of the hero and the heroine of our story.

This chapter shows Defarge as the ringleader of the St. Antoine revolutionists and an untiring leader too. He goes a long way off to fetch the mender of roads in order to kindle the fire of revenge in the hearts of his fellow workers. He takes the mender of roads out to see the King at Versailles—not with the intention of treating him with a sight but with quite a different purpose. "Jacques," says he, "judiciously show a cat milk if you wish her to thirst for it; judiciously show a dog his natural prey, if you wish it to bring it down one day."

Madame Defarge is also an ardent revolutionist—more ardent, more thorough-going and perhaps more cautious than her husband. She registers in knitting the names of those whom the Jacques determine to destroy, and when asked what she is knitting she significantly replies "Shrouds". He also kindles the spirit of revolt in the mender of roads and shows him the "dolls and birds" (the King and the Queen and the nobles) which he is taught to despoil for his advantage.

CHAPTER XVI

This chapter shows the inter-lacing of several incidents related in the earlier chapters and the relation they bear to the main story.

This chapter also affords us an opportunity of comparing and contrasting the character and temperament of Madame Defarge with that of her husband. "But it is your weakness," says Madame Defarge to her husband, "that you sometimes need to see your victim and your opportunity to see your victim, to sustain you. Sustain yourself without that. When the time comes, let loose a tiger and a devil; but wait for the time with the tiger and the devil chained—not shown yet always ready." Madame Defarge is a very shrewd woman too: She baffles Barsad's attempts to get some clue out of her and her out and dried replies makes him feel that she is a woman who can be trifled with. Madame Defarge, again, is more relentless than her husband. Monsieur Defarge is rather sorry that Charles Evmonde's (Darnay) name should also be proscribed by her. "Stranger things than that will happen when it does come," she replies. "I have them both (Darnay and Barsad) here, of a certainty; and they are both here for their merits; that's enough"—But she is too prejudiced to see that while Barsad is spy, Darnay has nothing against him except the fact of his birth. And an explanation for this bitter prejudice, an adequate psychological explanation, we will come across as we proceed.

Barsad's talk with Madame Defarge incidentally informs her of the whereabouts of Charles

remonde and of his marriage with Lucie Manetta. This latter fact, though it softens Monsieur Defarge towards Charles Darnay, has no influence on his wife who remains as bitter in her attitude as ever. The explanation is not far to seek: Monsieur Defarge sympathises with the oppressed with the people wronged—and with his sometime master whom he dearly loved. If Charles Evremonde is to become the son-in-law of the very man whose wrongs he wants to avenge, naturally he cannot but be softened—especially when Charles Evremonde personally is not responsible for any of the crimes he is to pay for. But as we shall find here on, the case is quite different with his wife. She has her own wrongs to avenge—she is an enemy not only of the man who has wronged her, but also of the family to which he belonged, and is not satisfied with the life of Charles Darnay we shall find her bent upon destroying Lucie, her child and Dr. Manette even because of the relation they bear to the family. And though we cannot fully endorse Monsieur Defarge's opinion of her as "a great woman, a strong woman, a grand woman, a frightfully grand woman", we must admit at the same time that she is a frightfully strong woman.

CHAPTERS. XVII-XIX.

These three chapters are not very important except in so far as they inform us of the marriage of Lucie with Darnay.

CHAPTER XX

This chapter brings out a remarkable trait of character of Lucie Manette and illustrates the most remarkable characteristics of Dickens as a writer

... Sydney Carton, as we find him here, is the same reckless advocate who is "incapable of all the higher and better flights of men." He wants to become a friend with Darnay and asks for his permission to see the family occasionally as a privileged person. He asks for this privilege not because he wants to pay frequent visits but as he says "It would satisfy me, I dare say, to know that I had it" And this is quite in keeping with the admiration he has for Lucie.

Lucie Manette (Darnay) too, is the same sweet soft-hearted creature that we have always found her to be. She is the only person who has sympathy enough to be able to appreciate the potentiality of Sydney Carton. It pains her to hear her husband, Charles Darnay, speaking somewhat lightly of Carton, and she says "I fear he is not to be reclaimed, there is scarcely a hope that anything in his character or fortunes is reparable now. But I am sure that he is capable of good things, gentle things, even magnanimous things." Her sympathy, her sweet innocent character, gives her an insight into Carton's real worth. And the most remarkable characteristic of Dickens as a writer finds expression in the following words which the author puts into Lucie's mouth "And, O my dearest Love! remember how strong we are in our happiness, and how weak he is in his misery!"

This one sentence more is sufficient to justify
André's remarks. "Dickens belongs entirely to
the humanitarian movement of the Victorian age,
and is indeed by far its most important representa-
tive in literature." To treat with actual kind-
ness, and to describe in writing the poorest and
even the meanest of our fellow-creatures with a
kindly heart, was Dickens' great gift, and the
guiding star of all his life.]

BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER IT IS BETTER TO
NARRATE BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF THE
FRENCH REVOLUTION. THE READER
SHOULD CAREFULLY NOTE THE DIFFE-
RENT STAGES OF THE REVOLUTION.

THE HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

The direct cause the French Revolution, and that which
gave the signal, as it were, for the dissolution of the Ancient
Regime was the deplorable condition of the finances.
The debts of Louis XIV had been increased by the wars
and extravagance of Louis XV and by the middle of the
eighteenth century France was confronted with the difficul-
ty of a chronic deficit, and when Louis XVI succeeded
his grandfather in 1774, the question of financial reform
demanded the most urgent consideration. He was at his
accession, only twenty years old, and was honestly desirous
of helping his people but he had, unfortunately, neither the

tomary services, all exclusive sporting rights were to cease; guilds and corporations were to be dissolved, and labour was henceforth to be "free," tithes, annuities and pluralities were abolished. One night's work thus sufficed to complete the destruction of a social system under which French men had lived for centuries.

Meanwhile there was imperative need for the Assembly to embark on the work of reconstruction. The old Government had collapsed, nothing had been devised to replace it, and France was drifting into anarchy. The members of the Assembly were inexperienced and only one man among them, the Count of Mirabeau, displayed any statesmanlike knowledge and grasp. Though with the Ancien Régime he had no sympathy, his supreme desire was to convince the King that the breach with the past was irreparable and to reconcile him to the new order. Not that he desired any weakening of the executive authority. On the contrary, a strong executive was to his mind the first necessity of government, but its strength must be derived from the willing assent of the people and from harmonious co-operation with the people's representatives in the Assembly. Therefore Mirabeau fought hard to preserve for the King that measure of power which an executive requires in order to be efficient, but he was unappreciated by his colleagues, and in almost all important matters met defeat. Unfortunately for France Mirabeau died on 2nd April, 1791 and before his death he made the prediction. "When I am gone they will know what the value of me was. The miseries I have held back will burst from all sides on France. I bury in my heart the death-dirge of the French monarchy: they will fight over its corpse"

The death of Mirabeau, the supporter of monarchy, greatly weakened the King's position and on 20th June the royal family left Paris secretly, but they were stopped at Varennes and brought back-virtually prisoners - to the capital.

It is at this moment that the project of a Republic comes distinctly into view. Robespierre and Danton

In other words, the commoners maintained that the vote should not be taken by order, but individually. As the commoners had been permitted to send twice as many delegates (600) as either clergy or nobility (300 each), it was plain that the proposition of the Third Estate would give that body preponderance. The clergy and nobility, therefore, offered a stubborn resistance; but after a month of contention, the Third Estate cut the knot by declaring itself, with or without the privileged classes, the National Assembly. Horrified by this act of daring, the King and the court tried to cow the commons by an abrupt summons to submit to the old procedure, but when the commons refused to be frightened, the King himself gave way and ordered the nobility and the clergy to join the commons. Thus, at the very beginning of the Revolution, the power passed out of the hands of the King and the privileged classes into the hands of the people.

The National Assembly which was thus constituted to regenerate France, was composed of very intelligent men who were animated by a pure enthusiasm to serve their country. But a fatal defect more than counterbalanced this generous disposition. The Assembly was composed of theorists, of men who were inexperienced in the practical affairs of government.

The primary business of the National Assembly was the making of a new constitution. It was of the highest importance that this work should be done in perfect security, free from the interference of popular passion and violence. As the National Assembly represented the propertied classes, there seemed to be every chance of calm and systematic procedure; but unfortunately the Assembly soon fell under the domination of the mob, and that proved the ruin of the revolution. The growth of the influence of the lower elements, who interpreted reform as anarchy, is the most appalling concomitant of the great events of 1789. If we understand this fact, we have the key to the awful degeneration of what certainly was, at the outset, a generous movement.

For this degeneration the king and the National Assembly are both responsible, for instead of working in harmony, they tried to injure each other as much as they could. In consequence the people were kept agitated with rumours of court plots, and were even ready to rise in insurrection against the monarch whom the orators designated as the tyrant. Thus on July 14, the populace of Paris threw itself in a rage upon the Bastille, an ancient state prison in the heart of Paris, and after a bloody encounter with the royal troops razed it to the ground.

The King at Versailles did not misread the lesson which the episode of the Bastille pointed. If he had had any thought of employing arms against the Revolution, he now abandoned it and tried to make his peace with the people. And the citizen class, too, adopted, temporarily at least, a more conciliatory attitude. Resolved to have done with violence, they organised for the maintenance of order a militia called the National Guard and made the popular Lafayette commander. The question now was whether the National Guard understood its duty, and strong enough to repress the lawless elements which were constantly growing more bold and more numerous.

The test came soon enough. In October the rumour of another courtplot tremendously excited the people. It was said that "the tyrant" was once again scheming to put down the Revolution with troops; and it was further said that he and no other had caused the dreadful famine in the city by buying up all the grain in the land. On the morning of October 5th, 10000 women, fierce and haggard from long suffering, set out for Versailles to fetch the king to Paris. The transfer, they were brought to believe, would somehow inaugurate a reign of plenty. Naturally enough as they straggled along, all the and female riffraff of the city joined them. Lafayette's duty in the face of this popular up rising was plain, but certain it is that he did nothing to break up the rioters. Only long after, the insurgents he set out for Versailles, where, on his arrival

He found everything in the greatest confusion, but where by his timely intercession, he saved the lives of the royal family. However, if the mob spared the King and the Queen, it declared firmly at the same time, that it would be satisfied with nothing short of the removal of the King and the royal family to the capital and the King was compelled to give his consent.

The events of October 5 and 6, in literal truth, ruined the monarchy. The King at the Tuileries in Paris was now practically Lafayette's prisoner, but Lafayette himself, even though it took some months to find it out, was henceforth the prisoner of the mob.

What greatly contributed to the power of the mob was the excitement and vague enthusiasm which possessed all classes alike. We must always remember, in order to understand the tremendous pace at which the Revolution developed, that the year 1789 marks an almost unparalleled agitation of public opinion. Leading symptoms of this agitation were the innumerable pamphlets and newspapers which accompanied the events of the day with explanatory comments, but a still more striking witness of the exaltation of men's minds was offered by the clubs. Clubs for consultation and debate became the great demand of the hour, they arose spontaneously in all quarters; in fact, every coffee-house acquired, through the passion of its frequenters, the character of a political association.

Throughout the year 1789, and 1790, the National Assembly was engaged with providing for the government of France, and in making a constitution. The great question of privileges, which had proved unsolvable in the early years of Louis XVI, caused no difficulties after the National Assembly had once been constituted. On August 4, 1789, the Assembly adopted a frenzied series of resolutions designed to get rid of the last relics of the feudal system. All men were to be henceforth equal before the law; offices and preferments were to be open to all; justice was to be administered gratuitously; serfdom, forced labour, all cus-

tomary services, all exclusive sporting rights were to cease; guilds and corporations were to be dissolved, and labour was henceforth to be "free," tithes, annuities and pluralities were abolished. One night's work thus sufficed to complete the destruction of a social system under which French men had lived for centuries.

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power passed into the hands of a few men resolute to save their country and Danton became virtual dictator. His policy was simple. With the allies advancing on Paris; with more than half France sympathising with the objects they were coming to achieve, the one path of safety for the republican minority was to strike terror into the hearts of their opponents. 'In my opinion,' said Danton. "the way to stop the enemy is to make the Royalists fear." They haled to the prisons all to whom the suspicion of being devoted to the King attached, and in the early days of September they emptied the crowded prisons again by a deliberate massacre of the inmates. An armed band of assassins, regularly hired by the municipality, made round of the prisons, and in the course of three days dispatched about two thousand victims. There was no discrimination of rank, sex or age. Men, women & children, bishops and priests, nobles & magistrates, —all who were suspected of Royalist leanings were foully murdered with the added mockery of judicial forms. Marat invited the provinces to follow the brilliant example of Paris.

But in the midst of the massacres Danton threw himself with splendid energy into the task of organising the National Defence and very soon the French turned the wave of invasion. The armies of the Republic were victorious every where, and before the winter of 1792, Belgium came into the possession of the French Republic.

The National Convention opened on 21st September and resolved by acclamation that 'royalty was abolished in France' A decree of perpetual banishment was passed against the *Emigres* and it was resolved to bring the King to trial before the Convention. The trial opened on 11th December, and on the 14th January the impatient mob surrounded the Convention with the cries of "Death to the tyrant." "Louis must die," said Robespierre, "because the country must live," and by a narrow majority Louis XVI, the kindest, most unselfish, and best intentioned of French Kings, was sentenced to death. On 21st Jan. the sentence was executed.

The execution of Louis XVI sent a thrill of horror through Europe and the Revolution itself changed its character. Intoxicated by success the republicans had challenged the existing order of Europe. "The French nation will treat as enemies the people who, refusing or

renouncing liberty and equality, are desirous of preserving their prince or privileged castes, or of entering into communication with them." The challenge was at once accepted and England, Holland, Austria, Prussia, the Holy Roman Empire were at war with France and it was plain that in order to meet her enemies, who were advancing from every point of the compass, France would be required to display an almost superhuman power.

An extraordinary tribunal to judge, without appeal, conspirators against the state was established in March, the "Committee of Public safety" was formed in April & when re-organised in July, was invested with practically supreme powers. The spirit of the new administration was well expressed by Robespierre. "Tyrants beset us without our borders, the friends of tyranny conspire within. In such a crisis the principle of our policy must be this: To govern the people by Reason and the enemies of the people by Terror. Terror is the only justice more prompt, more vigorous, more inexorable, and therefore Virtue's child." By the "law of the suspects" the Revolutionary committees not only in Paris but throughout France—were authorised to imprison all members of noble families, all relatives of Emigré's, and all who by word or not or writing showed sympathy with the fallen monarchy or the Ancient Regime. The prisons were before long crammed to overflowing, and the congestion was relieved by the daily procession to the Place de la Revolution where amidst staring and hooting mobs, who congregated to the spectacle every day, as to a feast, the guillotine was doing its ghastly work. "To be safe," said Hebert, "you must kill everybody." A systematic attempt was made to carry out the prescription, and on 10th June a law was passed designed to increase the murderous efficiency of the Revolutionary Tribunal by abolishing all formal proof of guilt.

Thus things hurried on to a crisis. No party and no individual knew who would be the next victim and all determined to strike at the arch-terrorist. Robespierre, Couthon and St Just were arrested, and though the Commune of Paris stood by them, the convention managed to assert itself, and Robespierre and his comrades at last shared the fate of thousands of their victims.

CHAPTERS VI and VII.

These two chapters describe the trial, release and re-arrest of Charles Darnay. We should remember that Darnay is tried for being an emigrant and is released when it is proved that he left France not for the Revolution but as a protest against the Ancient Regime and that he has long ago given up his title to the property because he did not like to be a party to the oppression of the people.

But Darnay is re-arrested soon after he reaches his home and this time nobody knows why. It is simply given out that Charles Evremonde has been denounced by the Citizen and Citizeness Defarge and by anyother and also that the trial will take place the very next day.

CHAPTER VIII and IX.

Sydney Carton comes to know of Lucie's departure for France accompanied by her Father and Miss Pross. He scents danger and comes to Paris and surprises Mr. Lorry. He visits a wine shop and accidentally over-hears Barsad, the spywitness against Darnay at the old Baily in England, speaking to another man in French. From their conversation Carton gathers that Barsad is at present employed as a turnkey at the prison of La Force and that Darnay is rearrested soon after his release.

Later on Carton manages to surprise Barsad when the latter is speaking with Miss Pross (who

CHAPTER XXI.

This chapter is divided into two parts—one relating to the events in England, the changes that have taken place in the lives of the more important characters, another describing the historical event of the fall of the Bastille.

From the first part we gather that Lucie is another now and that her children have 'an instinctive delicacy of pity for Carton. Some half-dozen times a year, at most, he claimed his privilege of coming in uninvited, and would sit among them, through the evening, as he had once done often. He never comes there heated with wine'. He is the same old Sydney Carton and no more thinks of emerging from his state of lion's jackal, than any real jackal may be supposed to think of rising to be a lion.

The second part of the chapter describes the fall of the Bastille. Fact and fiction is mixed together here. The event is historically true but the names of the characters are fictitious. The Bastille was a fortress for the defence of Paris and was also used as a state prison. The building was protected by towers, and was surrounded by a moat. The following is the historical account of the event.

"The mob, which collected in the Governor's Court in that fortress (the Bastille) and shouted for arms, was isolated by the raising of the outerdraw bridge and fired upon by the weak garrison in the Bastille itself. The sound of this firing brought a number of armed men from other parts of the city; the outer drawbridge was cut down; and prepara-

tions were being made to force a way into the fortress itself, when the garrison surrendered. The result of the firing upon the mob in the Governor's Court had been to kill eighty three persons and wound many others. The sight of the corpses and the cries of the wounded excited the anger of the successful conquerors of the fortress. A panic arose, and three officers and four soldiers of the garrison were murdered. Then the more disciplined of the conquerors started to take the rest of the defenders of the Bastille to the Hotel de Ville. On the way the Governor and the Major of the fortress were murdered by the mob, and M. de Flesselles the provost of the merchants of Paris, who was accused of encouraging the Governor to resist, was also slain."— Morse Stephen's *Revolutionary Europe*.

Alexander Manette has been kept confined in the Bastille in the cell no. 105, North Tower. Monseieur Defarge who is especially interested in the doctor's case goes to the cell to find out some clue to the events leading to his confinement. Dr. Manette, we must remember, has lost all memory so far as those events are concerned.

The reader should also note the part taken by Madame Defarge in this memorable event.

CHAPTER XXII

This chapter describes the murder of Foulon. This event too is historical, but as has already been pointed out, the characters, excepting Foulon, are not historical.

Foulon, originally a Commissariat clerk, was from the beginning of his career, unpopular with the people. When he entered the Parliament he was nicknamed "*amédamrie*" Familiar-demon. Carlyle characterises him as "a man grown grey in treachery, in griping, projecting, intriguing and iniquity" By and by he became the controller general of finances and was particularly inconsiderate of popular suffering. One of his finance-schemes was objected to by the representatives who asked "what will the people do?" Foulon, in the fire of discussion answered "the people may eat grass." When the Revolution broke out Foulon was given out to be dead and a sham funeral took place, but later on the trick was found out and Foulon and his son-in-law, Berthier, were murdered by the angry populace on 21st July 1789.

CHAPTER XXIV.

This chapter marks a turning point in the story. As the title indicates we will find all the important characters brought together in France when the Revolution has reached its climax.

When the Revolution broke out in France, the members of the French aristocracy began to leave France and went either to Germany or to England. "From the early days of the Revolution a steady streamer of French nobles had poured over the German frontier. The conduct of these men were despicable. By sticking to their posts they might

have done something to stem the tide of Revolution, or by frankly accepting the new situation they might have guided a movement which they could not control. Instead of this, they fled shrieking into Germany to implore the help of foreigners to arrest the progress of the Revolution. Their conduct at this crisis must be held largely responsible for the outbreak of the war, for the excesses of the reign of terror, and for the murder of the King”

Tellson's Bank has a branch in Paris with a big business with the French aristocracy. In this chapter we find Mr. Lorry speaking of French affairs to Darnay, of course unconscious of the fact that Darnay himself is a French noble. Mr. Lorry incidentally shows Darnay a letter from France addressed to “Monsieur heretofore the Marquis St. Evrémonde.” Darnay takes the letter undertaking to deliver it to the person addressed. The letter is from Gabelle, a faithful servant of the family who has been seized by the revolutionist for acting on behalf of an emigrant.

Darnay makes up his mind to go to France and release Gabelle by taking the responsibility on his own shoulders. He thinks that he will come to no danger; that he will be able to convince the people that he has given up his title to poverty, that he has always been against the oppression they have been subjected to.

CHAPTER III.

Mr Jarvis Lorry makes separate arrangements for Lucie's stay in Paris: for, he thinks, he has no right to imperil Tellson's by sheltering the wife of an emigrant prisoner under the Bank roof. His own possessions, safety, life, he will hazard for Lucie and her child, without a moment's murmur; but the great trust he holds is not his own, and as to the business charge, he is a strict man of business.

Dr. Manette, who became very popular with the mob as soon as he introduced himself as a Bastille prisoner, has gone to the prison of La Force where Darnay is kept confined in a solitary cell.

There he manages to save the life of Darnay from the hands of the murderers by exerting his influence and sends a note to Mr. Lorry—the bearer being Defarge himself. Defarge goes to Mr. Lorry not alone but with Madame Defarge. Madame Defarge pretends to have gone to see Lucie and her child so that she may save them, if necessary from the attacks of the mob. But, as we shall see later on, her real motive is quite different.

This chapter shows the spirit of revenge that has animated Madame Defarge:—

"As a wife and mother," cried Lucie, most earnestly, "I implore you to have pity on me and not to exercise any power that you possess, against my innocent husband, but to use it in his behalf. O sister-woman, think of me. As wife and mother." Madame Defarge looked, coldly as ever, at the suppliant, and said, turning to her friend The Vengeance, "The wives and mothers we have

been used to see, since we were as little as this child, and much less, have not been greatly considered? We have known *their* husbands and fathers laid in prison and kept from them, often enough? All our lives, we have seen our sister-women suffer, in themselves and in their children, poverty, nakedness, hunger, thirst, sickness, misery, oppression, and neglect of all kinds?"

"We have seen nothing else" returned the Vengeance.

"We have borne this a long time," said Madame Defarge, turning her eyes again upon Lucie, "Judge yourself, is it likely that the trouble of one wife and mother would be much to us now?"

CHAPTER IV.

This chapter simply describes how Dr. Manette has managed to save Darnay from the hands of the murderers who carried on the September Massacres by exerting his own personal influence with the mob and how he has gained popularity by his services towards the wounded.

But the doctor inspite of all his efforts has not been able to release Darnay who is still imprisoned though a guarantee has been given that he will not be killed without a trial.

CHAPTER V.

One year and three months pass away and Darnay is still imprisoned. But the doctor is still confident of his ultimate release. "Nothing can happen to him without my knowledgo, and I know that I can save him."

Lucie goes every day near the prison wall and stands at a street corner so that Darnay may have a look at her if he gets the chance. "In all weather, she waited there two hours. As the clock struck two, she was there, and at four she turned resignedly away. When it was not too wet or inclement for her child to be with her, they went out together; at other times she was alone; but she never missed a single day."

The hovel of a cutter of wood is the only house at that end; all else is wall. Lucie does not think that there is anything to fear from the cutter of wood. The reader should note the fact that in visiting the same place everyday at some fixed time Lucie is actually running a great risk. By the "law of Suspects" the Revolution committees are authorised to imprison all members of noble families, all relatives of emigrants, all who by word or act or writing show sympathy with the fallen monarchy, or the Ancient Regime.

The cutter of wood, we will see later on, will act as a spy, thus endangering the lives of Lucie and her child.

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"As a wife and mother," cried Lucie, most earnestly, "I implore you to have pity on me and not to exercise any power that you possess, against my innocent husband, but to use it in his behalf. O sister-woman, think of me. As wife and mother!" Madame Defarge looked coldly at her, at the suppliant, and said, turning to her friend The Vengeance, "The wives and mothers we have

That he has no faith in the old doctor's influence Sydney Carton cannot help giving out "I owe to you", says he to Mr. Lorry, "I am shaken by Dr. Manette's not having had the power to prevent the arrest" And gives out that he is taking a dangerous step. "In short, this is a desperate time, when desperate games are played for desperate stakes. Let the doctor play the winning game, I will play the losing one"

But Carton is not inconsiderate; he is conscious that he is taking an advantage of Barsad's weakness, but he has consideration enough not to endanger Barsad if he can avoid it "It is all I could do," says Carton, to propose too much would be to put this man's head under the axe, and, as he himself said, nothing worse could happen to him if he were denounced. It was obviously the weakness of the position. There is no help for it."

But his first consideration is Lucie and her happiness. Carton can not bear the idea of Lucie being in suffering. "Don't tell her of this interview, or this arrangement. It would not enable her to see him. She might think it was contrived, in case of the worst, to convey to him the means of anticipating the sentence. She might think a thousand things," he goes on, "and any of them would add to her trouble. Don't speak of me to her. As I said to you when I first came I had better not see her. I can put my hand out to do any little helpful work for her that my hand find to do, without her. You are going to her, I hope! She must be very desolate to night".

Sydney Carton seems to be tired of his life—his useless life—and when he has got together every thing he requires for the success of his plan, when he has got nothing to do but to wait for his opportunity, his reckless manner gives place to a more serious mood—it is the settled manner of a tired man, who had wandered and struggled and got lost, but who at length struck into his road and saw its end. Long ago, when he had been famous among his earliest competitors, as a youth of great promise, he had followed his father to the grave. His mother had died years before. These solemn words, which had been read at his father's grave, arose in his mind as he went down the dark streets, among the heavy shadows, with the moon and the clouds sailing on high above him. "I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die".

We should not forget that Jerry Cruncher has also accompanied Mr. Lorry to France. Cruncher used to carry on his "honest" trade of a body snatcher at night and this profession of his enabled him to find out that the funeral of Roger Cly was a sham one. He helped Carton in inducing Barsad to help him by asserting that the coffin contained no dead body at all.

This assertion of his leads Mr. Lorry to suspect his profession, and he calls for an explanation from Cruncher. Cruncher, of course, at first tries to evade but is at last compelled to confess and begs to be pardoned and Mr. Lorry is too much

soft-hearted not to grant it "It may be," says he, "that I shall yet stand you a friend, if you deserve it, and repent in action—not in words. I want no more words"

CHAPTER X.

The following is the purport of the document which is said to contain the denunciation of Charles Evremonde by Alexander Manette:—

In France there was an aristocratic family called Evremonde. French noble families of the period were notorious for their high handedness, recklessness and debauchery. They enjoyed rights having no corresponding duties and looked upon their tenants as nothing better than beasts of burden. The Marquis of Evremonde and his twain brother were in no way better than the average noblemen of the period and like others they too oppressed their tenants.

One of the tenants of this noble family had two beautiful daughters and a young son. The elder of the daughters was a very beautiful and attractive young girl of about twenty years of age and was married to a young man another tenant of the Evremondes. Soon after her marriage the brother of the Marquis happened to take fancy towards her and managed to bring about the death of her husband and took her away. The brother of the girl, determined to avenge the wrong, sent away the other sister to a place of safety, and one night went with a sword in hand to the place where the sister was kept confined, and attacked the brother

of the Marquis. But in the fight that ensued the boy fell mortally wounded—the poor sister going mad at the sight.

The two brothers (the Marquis and his brother now fetched Dr. Alexandre Manette, a young surgeon of great repute. He was first taken to the mad girl but he was at a loss as to what to do with her. He was then taken to the brother, a young lad of seventeen, who was lying wounded. This young man made a clean breast of everything to the doctor: how they were oppressed, how they were being starved, how young girls in a peasant family were a curse to them. The young boy before his death, predicted that these wrongs would some day be avenged. "Marquis," said the boy, "in the days when all these things are to be answered for I summon you and yours, to the last of your bad race, to answer for them". The girl also died soon after her brother's death. Dr. Manette was so moved by this that he hated to accept anything from the Marquis.

The very next day a lady came to see the doctor. She was the wife of the Marquis of Evermonde, she sued and desired to help the surviving girl of the peasant family. She came to the doctor for information as to the whereabouts of the girl. But the doctor, too, was totally ignorant as to the identity of the family. The lady had a little boy with her whom she addressed as Charless. "For his sake, doctor," she said, "I would do all I can to make what poor amends I can. He will never foster in his inheritance otherwise. I have a presentiment that if no other innocent atonement is

made for this, it will one day be required of him. What I have left to call my own—it is little beyond the worth of a few jewels—I will make it the first charge of his life to bestow, with compassion and lamenting of his dead mother, on their injured family, if the sister could be discovered.”

[N. B. It was a prophetic statement—the little boy grew up to be Charles Darnay, and the surviving peasant girl, brooding under the sense of wrong, grew up to be the terrible Madame Defarge.]

The doctor was so moved that he wrote privately to the minister, stating the nature of the two cases to which he had been summoned to attend. A few days later, on the night of 31st December 1757, Defarge, the doctor's boy-servant, brought in a man dressed in black “An urgent case in the Rue St Honor,” the man said to the doctor, “It will not detain you, I have a coach in waiting.” When the doctor entered the carriage, he was gagged and then taken to the Bastille where he was kept confined. (It was by means of letter de Catchet that the king could keep anybody confined for any length of time without a trial).

Dr. Manette had married an English lady and had a daughter named Lucie (the heroine of the novel), mere baby at the time. After the doctor's disappearance, his wife having never slackened her unavailing search for her husband died broken hearted when Lucie was only two years old. But she had determined to spare the poor child the inheritance of any part of the agony she had known

The document concluded with the sentence "And them and their descendants, to the last of their race, I, Alexandre Manette, unhappy prisoner, do this last night of the year 1767, in my unbearable agony, denounce to the times when all things shall be answered for, I denounce them to Heaven and to earth."

The reading of the document causes great excitement among the crowd and, in spite of the doctor, Darnay was condemned to "Death within four-and-twenty hours!"

CHAPTER XII.

This chapter throws much light on the somewhat mysterious conduct of Madame Defarge—the cause of 'the deadly nature of her wrath' and passionate zeal to have Darnay executed. It also shows that M. Defarge is not so cruel at heart as his wife and on the contrary, has always tried to counteract the influence of his wife who will be satisfied with nothing short of extermination of the Evremonde family.

The cause of her indignation can be best put in her own words which she once addressed to her husband "Defarge, I was brought up among the fishermen of the sea-shore, and that peasant family so injured by the Evremonde brothers, as the Bastille paper describes, is my family. Defarge, that sister of the mortally wounded boy upon the ground was my sister, that husband was my husband, that brother was my brother, those dead are my dead, and that summons to answer for those things descend to me."

